THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTEREED No. 44.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXV. NUMBER 11. | CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1878. | *Per Annum in Advance.* TOWN.....11-8. MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 11TH MARCH.

LAST SATURDAY'S *Gazette of India* contains the correspondence between the Government of the North Western Provinces and the Government of India regarding scarcity and distress in the North Western Provinces and Oudh. The Government of India in a letter to the Government of the North Western Provinces remarks:

From this report, His Excellency learns that while the area sown with spring crops was less extensive than usual in the centre and east of Oudh, in Gorukhpur, Azimgurh, and Ghazipur, yet on the whole, in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, 25 per cent. more land than is usual was sown with these crops.

From various causes, however, such as cold and frost, hail, unseasonable rain, blight and insects, the outturn is not likely to come up to its original promise. With all these deductions however, "there is yet on the ground the promise of a magnificent crop, and if only fair weather is vouchsafed until it can be harvested, there is good reason to hope that there will soon be abundant provision of food in the country."

Owing to last year's exportation of grain to Bombay and Madras, and to the almost universal failure of the kharif harvest, the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that stocks of food in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh are nearly exhausted, and people have been living for some time on imported grain. At present the spring harvest is ripening and there are indications of a fall in price. In the meantime the class of day laborers are in great distress, and subsist to a great extent on unnutritious and unwholesome food. The unusual cold of January added to their misery, and led to considerable mortality. In anticipation of this distress arrangement, which were reported at the time, were made, in October last to start relief works in each district where severe distress was expected, and authority was given to open relief houses on the system already approved by the Government of India. Relief houses were accordingly opened at that time in most of the Rohilkund districts, and they have been subsequently opened in Budaon, Agra, Furukhabad, Etah Azimgurh, and in most of the Oudh districts. His Excellency in Council is glad to learn that in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor these arrangements have everywhere been sufficient (save that there was a temporary want of arrangement in Rai Bareilly,) and that they are now on such a footing that no one need die of starvation.

It is the opinion of Sir George Couper that "as the crop ripens and the laborers find employment in cutting it, the numbers relieved will diminish; but though the pressure will then be greatly lightened, it is to be feared that many of the poorer classes will continue to be much pinched till the kharif grains come into the market." On the whole, the Governor-General in Council is satisfied that "the arrangements have been timely and sufficient, and that the measures taken have been, and in Sir George Couper's hands will continue to be, equally removed from panic on the one hand and from negligent indifference on the other."

THE LUCKNOW WITNESS has the following:

"General Showers on Indian famines," was the heading of an article in last week's *Hindoo Patriot*, and we thought, "capital idea, only show us how to bring about General Showers at just the right time and the famine question is solved." But behold "Showers" was the name of a regular Major-General who is also "a practical agriculturist of great experience," and so offers suggestions about the famine. What's in a name?

PROF. Monier Williams says: "Perhaps I should scarcely be believed if I were to relate with richness of detail the story of an intelligent young person, supposed to be fully educated, who was present the other day at a lecture on Zenana work, and was heard to inquire (with much *naivete*) whether the Zenanas were not a tribe of Afghans." The late Dr. Duff once told us that a friend of his, who used to take a lively interest in India, wrote to him from Scotland requesting him to *hand* a letter from Calcutta to a gentleman in Madras!

HUMBERT I, now King of Italy, is just approaching the completion of the thirty fourth year of his age. He is five years older than his father, Victor Emmanuel was, at the time of accession of the latter to the throne. He, like his father, is a trained soldier, and has been baptised by the fire of the battle; but, unlike his father, he is addicted more to intellectual pursuits, such as study and authorship, and less to hunting and the gratification of the grosser appetites.

THE FIRST public appearance of the new King and Queen of Italy, outside the limits of their own realm, will be made at the forthcoming Paris Exhibition, whence the Royal couple will make their way to England on a visit to Queen Victoria.

THE House of Lords have appointed a Select Committee for the purpose of inquiring into the prevalence of habits of intemperance, and into the manner in which those habits have been affected by recent legislation and other causes.

TELEPHONIC communication has been opened between the House of Commons and the office of the *Daily News*, and part of the Parliamentary debate and summary published in that paper has been transmitted by this means.

THE GOVERNMENT of the North-West Provinces warns persons intending to make pilgrimages to Badrinath and Kedarnath that, owing to the failure of the late *kharif* harvest, there is a great scarcity of food in the Garhwal district. They are advised not to visit the shrines this year, unless they can arrange to take with them whatever food they may require.

TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH.

THE MARVELLOUS perfection of British telegraphy, as well as the immense amount of interest with which the Queen's Speech was waited, is seen in the fact that the 800 words of which it was composed were transmitted to the most distant provinces in less than eight minutes. Three hundred newspapers, and two hundred clubs and news-rooms, received the communication direct, and there must have been printed on the afternoon of the day on which it was read not less than three million copies of it. In a little over half an hour it was being read in Alexandria.

IN A Resolution the Government of Madras says "that the Mansion House Funds have, generally speaking, been judiciously and beneficially distributed whether under the guidance of private or of official persons." In certain districts, however, the funds had been given by Government officers, to persons already getting, and likely to get Government aid. This is justly condemned as being directly at variance with the intention of the donors "and, in effect, a misappropriation."

THE PIONEER remarks: "One consideration seems to have been overlooked in the adjustment of the two per cent cess. The corresponding license tax is only imposed on trades who make more than a fixed minimum income. There is no corresponding exemption in the case of the agriculturist." This is quite true. The poor ryot in Bengal, if he has income from land of one rupee, must pay half an anna upon it on account of the Road and Provincial Public Works Cesses.

IN THE COURSE of a lecture "On the impurities in raw sugar," lately delivered at Greenock, Mr. Neill, a sugar refiner of that place, displayed a number of "foreign" impurities imported in sugar, such as a crowbar, brickbats, stones, a piece of volcanic mud, an old stirrup, a Chinese head-dress, and other articles of dress worn by the workers on the sugar plantations and at the shipping port, and which found their way into the hogsheds and bags through carelessness, and sometimes to make up weight for sugar that had been stolen. Mr. Neill said he knew a Greenock refiner obtain no less than three tons of large stones out of one cargo of sugar. One of the chief impurities in sugar was sand, and in the Mauritius sugar there was found 1½ per cent of that substance.

THE KING of Burmah contemplates despatching another mission to Italy to do honour to the new King of that country.

THE GERMAN botanist, Regel, has discovered in the Himalayas a variety of wild onion, which he regards as the original source of the ordinary garden onion. It is called *Allium cepa sylvestre.*

MR. BRADLAUGH and Mrs. Besant have, after all, succeeded in getting their conviction for publishing the "Fruits of Philosophy," quashed. The point, upon which they have succeeded, is a technical one, *viz.*, that the indictment against them failed to set out the exact portions of the book, which the prosecution considered to be *contra bonos mores.*

WEDNESDAY, 13TH MARCH.

THE AMERICAN PAPERS announce the death of Mr. Samuel Bowles, of Springfield, Massachusetts, one of the ablest and most distinguished of American journalists. Mr. Bowles was proprietor and editor of the *Springfield Republican*, and by his ability and energy made his paper, published in a Massachusetts country-town, an influence all over New England, and, indeed, throughout the Northern States generally.

THE LATEST thing in Berlin is the Bismarck pencil, of which, it is said only one specimen has been imported into London. It differs from ordinary pencils only in its length, which is no less than fifteen inches, but this difference is very important, as any one will find who attempts to handle it. As little practice, however, soon makes it serviceable, and a fine flowing style of handwriting may be cultivated with it. It is a pencil of this kind that Prince Bismarck uses for taking notes and most of the purposes to which a pencil may be put, but he also uses it greatly for pointing out objects and as a general aid in giving directions, hence the value of its great length. Prince Bismarck's pencil is the wand, which now sways the destinies of Europe.

THE HIGH COURT has been pleased to re-admit on the rolls of the Court, Mr. Smith, whose name was struck from the list of attorneys in 1875, for unprofessional conduct in having appropriated the money of a client to his own purposes. The Chief Justice remarks:—

"No doubt his misconduct was extremely gross, but we think he has done his utmost to atone to his client for the injury which he has done him."

On self-same grounds the Court may be pleased to reconsider Babu Rupnath Banerji's case.

IT IS STATED that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of Madras has recommended the enlistment of a large number of Eurasians in the Indian Army, and that the papers on the subject have been forwarded for the consideration of the Government of India.

WE ARE informed that the operation of Chapter 13 of Act VII. of 1873 (Bengal Code) has been extended in Assam in such a manner as to give the Chief Commissioner power to close a garden to any particular class of labourers if the death-rate among that class attains excessive proportions.

WE ARE informed that a bust in bronze of the late Mr. Stoliczka, with a red granite pedestal, has recently been completed in England, and will shortly be despatched to Calcutta for the Imperial Museum. The work has been executed by Mr. Giflowski, a sculptor, who has already modelled a bust of Dr. Stoliczka for the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

A DEPUTATION from the watch manufacturing trade waited upon Sir C. Adderly at the Board of Trade Office, with the complaint that Swiss and other foreign cheap watch cases were being sent to agents in England, who got them stamped with the English Hall mark, and returned them to foreign manufacturers, who then finished the watch and sold it as of English manufacture, in some cases being so unscrupulous as to place the names of some well-known English manufacturer upon the watch. The President could not see any reason for a committee of inquiry, and suggested the introduction of a short bill dealing with the grievance under which it was clear the trade were suffering.

THE ANNUAL reports, for the year 1876, on the destruction of wild animals and venomous snakes, shows that the results of the year were very formidable, as regards the destruction of life, though with respect to human life slightly more favourable in comparison with previous year's returns. Including statistics from Mysore and Coorg, 19,432 persons and 61,229 Cattle were deprived of life by wild animals and snakes, while 23,459 wild animals, and 212,371 snakes were destroyed. What effect will the new Arms Act have on this growing evil?

THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH.

THE JOWAKI Country was evacuated by our troops on the 7th march, the prisoners of war released, and the Adamkhel hostages discharged.

THE FAMINE report from Madras to the 12th instant states that the decrease in numbers on relief

works during the past week was 4953, on gratuitous relief 480, total 5433. Numbers still remaining 255,000. There is a general though not considerable rise in prices of rice and dry grains.

INTELLIGENCE FROM Ladakh to the 31st January reports that the Karakoram pass was blocked with heavy snow and the road closed, though a lightly equipped party of Yarkandi traders was about to attempt the passage. A messenger from Lassa had announced the selection of a child to succeed the late Grand Lama.

THE ROADS between Kashmir and Ladakh are said to be every-where bad but practicable.

WE HAVE been requested to announce that the upper south gallery of the Indian Museum containing stuffed birds and reptiles and the lower south gallery containing archæological specimens will be open to the public after the 1st April. As the arrangement of the cases containing birds is not quite completed, it may be necessary to keep the gallery closed on three days in the week instead of only on two (Sunday and Friday), but this arrangement will be temporary only. The geological galleries will remain open as they have been ever since the 1st January.

WITH CHARACTERISTIC prejudice against the Native, the *Pioneer* thus comments on our publication of the complaint of Mr. Macdonald against Mr. Phillips:

"The story was generally discredited, as Mr. Macdonald's statement first appeared in the *Hindoo Patriot*, a native paper always on the look-out for charges against the "brutal European." It now transpires that the planter never sent any account of his ill-usage to that paper but sensibly filed his complaint with Mr. Moloney, the Commissioner of Patna, for presentation to the Lieutenant-Governor. How the *Patriot* came by it is unexplained.

Now, here was a complaint by one European against another, and because we gave publicity to it we are charged with being "always on the look-out for charges against the brutal European!" This is the *Pioneer's* sense of journalistic duty. We made no comments on the case, on the contrary we said that we had received only one side of the story, and yet we are charged with race-feeling. How the *Patriot* came by the story is not the question at issue—how often does the *Pioneer* publish papers and accounts, of the source of which we are ignorant, but who cares to enquire about them? Mr. Macdonald admits that the account, published by us, has been communicated to the Patna Commissioner; this statement ought to satisfy the Allahabad caviller that it was no invention of our informant. One reason for withholding our comments on the case was that we had received good accounts of Mr. Phillips, who is a zealous and kind-hearted officer, and we were sorry to see him accused of such betrayal of temper.

THE MADRAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE has addressed two memorials, the one to the local Government, and the other to the Secretary of State, against the License tax. In the last the Chamber says:

That, as the Government of India have challenged public opinion, it is competent to your memorialists to express their conviction that the expense of the administration of this country has not been nearly reduced to the minimum consistent with efficiency. That specially in connection with the allowances of the higher classes of officials is there room for judicious retrenchment. That the finances of the Empire are declared to be in a chronic state of embarrassment, and the time has passed for paying officials the salaries that may have been necessary in former days to induce suitable men to expatiate themselves. That India having ceased to be a *terra incognita*, and having been relieved of much of its former character for unhealthiness, discomfort and risk, the scale of official remuneration should be read justed with due regard to the state of the labour marked in Europe, and especially with regard to the inability of India longer to afford official emoluments that have never been paralleled elsewhere.

The Calcutta Europeans only are mute. Have they lost their hereditary spirit?

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that at the request of the leading members of the native local bar a meeting was called by the District Judge of Patna, on the 6th instant, to discuss and consider the advisability of introducing into the civil courts the practice of pleading in English instead of Urdu, with a view to facilitate procedure. The Judge, who took part in the discussion, thought that until the Legislature interfered, and made it compulsory, it would be needless to carry on the discussion, as it appeared evident that most of the native pleaders were content to go on as heretofore. The subject then dropped, and the meeting was dissolved.

FROM the 1st of April to the end of February the actual loss on the Secretary of State's bills on India amounted to Rs. 1,33,26,879, being Rs. 19,51,720 in excess of the estimated loss. The average rate at which the bills have been sold has been 1*s.* 8·81*d.*, the estimated price being 1*s.* 9·23*d.* So the loss by exchange nearly absorbs a million and a half to be raised by new taxation.

MR. GATHORNE HARDY, War Minister of England, thus spoke in asking for the six-million vote:

"Confusion and violence are all around us; a spark may set on fire magazines of mischief and ruin which are not seen or understood. You do not know, you cannot know, what elements of deadly peril to your dearest interests are in the air. If you were aware, as it is impossible you should be of the secret difficulties and dangers which encompass the situation, it would be realised that that which is to-day a question of six millions to place England in a state of preparation may be hereafter a question of six hundred millions to defend her very existence as an empire."

FRIDAY, 15TH MARCH.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of a petition against the Bombay Abkarry Act. The petitioners state that they hold the several villages, named after their respective signatures at foot of the petition, under certain Indentures, executed by the late the East India Company, by which the proprietary rights in the said villages are vested in them under specific clauses of the nature quoted below, viz:—

"They, the United Company, have granted, bargained, sold, alienated, released, and confirmed, by these presents, do grant, bargain, sell, alienate, release, and confirm into the said Cursetjee Ardaseer and Jehangeer Ardaseer in their exclusive right in their actual possession and occupation, all those said villages and pieces and parcels of land."

"That for and notwithstanding any right, title or interest which they the said United Company have or claim of taxing and assessing certain Brab and other trees on the Island of Salsette, the said Cursetjee Ardaseer and Jehangeer Ardaseer, their heirs and assigns shall and may have, hold and enjoy all and singular the Brab and other trees and all other the produce of any kind whatsoever now growing or which may be hereafter grown or produced on the said pieces and parcels of land, hereditaments and premises hereby granted and released or intended so to be free and clear of and without being subject to any taxation or assessment whatsoever."

The position of these petitioners seems to be analogous to that of the Bengal zemindars under the Permanent Settlement. But the Government will perhaps say that the "odious charge of breach of faith" should not be lightly made.

WE SUGGESTED some weeks back that the Government should give our college students the benefit of Mr. Fairclough's readings We are glad to observe that Sir Richard Temple has adopted this suggestion.

THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT notifies that during the calendour year 1879 sixty thousand chests of Bengal Provision Opium in all will be sold. The number of chests to be sold at each monthly sale, and the proportion of Benares and Behar Opium to be sold on each occasion, will be fixed by a supplementary notification.

THE FOLLOWING gentlemen compose the Home Rule League of Ireland:

"Isaac Butt, Q.C., M.P.; Rev. Joseph A. Galbraith, E.T. C.D.; Mitchell Henry, M.P.; P. M'Cabe Fay, John O. Blunden, Manrice Brooks, M.P.; Major Nolan, M.P., C. S. Parnell, M.P., R. O' Shaughnessy, M.P.; William Shaw, M.P.; J. G. Bigger, M.P.; Most Rev. Dr. M'Carthey, Lord Bishop of Cloyne; W. J. O'N. Daunt, Alfred Webb, Rev. Thomas O'Shea, P.P., Comeris: Lord Francis Conyngham, M.P.; Rev. Samuel Haughton, F.T.C.D.; T. D. Sullivan, C. H. Maldon Q.C., M.P.; R. P. Blennerhassett M.P.; C. J. Fay, M.P.; John Casey, F.R.S.; Hon. Judge Little, Right Hon. Lord French, Major O'Gorman, M.P.; J. O'C. Power M.P.; Dr. O'Leary, M.P.; M'Carthy Downing, M.P.; R. B. Butt; Alderman Donnehy, J. P. (Dublin); W. A. Redmoud, M.P.; Charles Dawson, T.C. (Dublin); A. J. Kettle, J. P. M'Alister, W. H. O'Sullivan, M.P.; I.J. Kennedy, T. C. (Dublin); Rev. Mathew, Keeffe, P.P. (Aughaboe); George F. Shaw, F.T.C.D.; F.H. O'Donnell, M.P.; E. R. King-Harman, M.P.; Sir J. N. M'Ken, M.P.; John Ferguson (Glasgow); William Dillon (Dublin); Philip Callan, M.P.; A. M. Sullivan, M.P.; Patrick Martin, M.P.; Dr. Ward, M. P.; Rev. Peter O'Reilly, P.P.; Patrick Cahill, LL, D. (Athy), J. Delahunty, M.P.

THE INDIAN MIRROR publishes the following telegrams from Kuch Behar:

Cuch Behar, 13th March.—A painful scene has taken place at the Rajbari to-day. The Deputy Commissioner has issued orders that the Maharajah should start for England on Friday next. The Maharajah's mother and grandmother are said to be beating their heads in desperate fits of agony and profusely bleeding. Doctors have been sent for. The entire Hindoo community is in a state of agitation.

14th.—Most painful scenes here in connection with the approaching departure of the Maharajah to England. The Maharajah is now at the Deputy Commissioner's, and not allowed to take leave of his mother. Weeping and lamentation in the Rajbari owing to this cruel treatment.

We are sick of this Kuch Behar business. We are really at a loss to conceive why the Government should, in the teeth of the opposition of the Maharanis and of unanimous public opinion, persist in sending the young Maharajah to England. Is it too late to stop the scheme?

MR. J. F. HARRISON, Officiating Second Inspector of Registration Offices, is appointed to act as First Inspector of Registration Offices, *vice* Babu Protap Chunder Ghose, who on his own application reverts to his substantive appointment in Calcutta. Babu Hemchunder Ker is appointed to act as Second Inspector. Babu Hemchunder is an energetic and meritorious officer and deserves this lift.

SATURDAY, 16TH MARCH.

THE INDIAN DAILY NEWS has received the following telegrams from Madras:

Bellary, 14th March, 19h. 40m.—The Madras Government have ordered the re-opening of relief camps and works in every taluk in this district; very great distress prevails here last week 2,000 people were sent to the State railway camp. The Government of India have ordered the pushing forward of the Bellary-Hubli State railway as a relief work through the Nizam's territory to Darwar, to meet the State railway from Darwar.

On what information had the famine camps been broken up?

WE UNDERSTAND that the Secretary of State has by telegraph approved of the general scope of the Vernacular Press Bill and of its being introduced and passed through the Legislative Council. It is needless for us to point out that this measure could not have been introduced without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State.

THE TURKESTAN Gazette of the 27th December 1877 (8th Janury 1878) has an article on the Russo-Chinese Tea-trade with India, of which the following is a translation:-

In order to uphold and develop our Tea Trade with China *via* Kiakhta, and to counteract the effect upon it of the lately started importation of teas coming from India (*via* Bokhara, it was recently ruled to levy an import duty on the latter. But, owing to the abolition of the *Ziaket* system [a kind of native custom house establishment] considerable quantities of Indian teas are now being sold in the Turkistan markets, as well as in those of the neighbouring Khanates, which have paid no import duty at all And, where as formerly, under the *Ziaket*-system, the native stats were consumers of Kiakhta tea, the inhabitants of the Asiatic quarter of Tashkend and the natives of other towns are now exclusively using Indian teas—which latter owing to the absence of any control, are freely imported without paying any duty whatever. Hence the tea merchants of Verny and other towns on the road from China being to experience a serious loss of trade, as compares with preceding years, and complain of a state of things which is thus allowed to undermine their prosperity, although an efficient customs supervision as regards these importations of tea from India could be established both easily and cheaply. At present, however, the matter would seem to concern none of our authorities; and although the natives, tea dealers and others, are quite willing to assist the administration in the enforcement of the regulations introduced for the protection of our Kiakhta Tea Trade, they (the regulations) are in some strange way suffered to remain a dead letter.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 9th March.—In the Lords last night, the Earl of Derby, replying to a question, confirmed the report that a Congress or conference would be held at Berlin. Austria, he said, had opened negotiations with England respecting its basis. The British Government had asked that the whole of the conditions of the treaty of peace be submitted to the Congress. France and Italy have accepted the proposed conference.

10th.—Lord Salisbury replying to a deputation in the Manchester Chamber of Commerce said Government was anxious to remit the India import duties on Cotton Goods with the least possible delay, but circumstances had hitherto prevented them doing so Frequent Cabinet Councils are being held.

11th.—Mr. Gladstone has announced that he will not be a candidate at the next general election. Lord Derby has sent a Note to the European Powers, proposing that Greece be admitted to the Congress. England and French have accepted the Congress at Berlin. It is rumoured that Austria intends occupying Bosnia and Herzegovina.

11th.—It is reported that a secret treaty exists between Russia and Turkey.

12th.—Mr. Gladstone's letter in which he declined candidacy for Greenwich at the next general election, has led to invitations for him to stand from numerous districts. Mr. Gladstone, in replying to the invitation from Leeds, says he defers making any arrangements for a seat in Parliament.

12th.—In the House of Lords last night Lord Derby in replying to a question confirmed the statement that England had proposed that Greece be admitted to the Congress journals of all opinions unite in approving of this proposal. In the House of Commons Gathorne Hardy replying to a question said the compulsory retirement did not apply to officers of the late Indian Artillery except in case of Generals over seventy years old. Extension to other officers was he said under consideration.

13th.—Sir Stafford Northcote, replying to a question, said that the Government had received no information that Russian troops were fortifying the Bulair lines; and that they were still twelve miles distant. The Russian troops are moving towards, and are close on to, Constantinople.

15th.—It is reported that negotiations are proceeding between England and France for a joint enquiry into the reorganisation of the Egyptian financial administration.

15th.—The *Times* of to-day fully approve of the Government of India's bill for curbing the native Indian press.

Constantinople, 9th March.—Safvet Pacha has been appointed Turkish Envoy to the European Congress. It is stated that the Russians have occupied Kagul and Bolgrad, towns in Roumania, Bessarabia.

Athens, 9th March.—Fighting in Thessaly and Epirus is continuous.

15th.—The Official Athens Journal announces that Russia has refused to accede to the proposal made by England to admit Greece to the European Congress.

Vienna, 9th March.—The Austrian Minister of foreign affairs in asking for a grant of sixty millions florins said, that Austria must demand at Congress in limitation of the results Russo-Turkish war whereby European, and Austro-Hungarian interests should remain uninjured, added that any power attempting to solve the difficulty alone would encounter European combination.

11th.—It is semi-officially stated here that war is regarded as inevitable between Austria and Russia unless Russia submits the whole of the peace conditions to the Congress.

12th.—The Hungarian delegation have agreed to vote sixty millions of florins.

St. Petersburgh, 13th March.—Fears are entertained here that England intends occupying the Island of Mytelence.

14th.—It is semi-officially stated here that Russia cannot submit to European Congress all points of Treaty of Peace between Turkey and Russia.

14th—Sir Stafford Northcote, when replying to a question about the Congress, added that the majority at the Congress would not be binding, and England would maintain her own views.

Constantinople, 15th March.—Several Russian batteries of Artillery have arrived at *Sharkoi and Rodosto.*

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London 16th March.—The British iron-clad squadron at Gallipoli, under command of Admiral Commerell, has been reinforced from the iron-clad reserve squadron at Besska Bay. The Russians have occupied the Zekirekoi plateau, near the forts commanding the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorus. The Russian force near Bulair had been reinforced.

17th.—The situation is again menacing. It is semi-officially stated at St. Petersburgh that Greece cannot participate equally with the other Powers at the Congress, but might delegate her interests to others. In compliance with the request of the Indian Government, Mr. James Caird will join the Commission of Enquiry into the Indian Famine in October.

15th.—Some doubts exist as to whether the European Congress will meet at all. In the meatime active warlike preparations continue. In the House of Commons this evening the first Lord of the Admiralty, in presenting his navy estimates, said the present strength of the British Navy was ample to protect British interests. Sir Stafford Northcote in replying to a question, said that England requires that all the peace conditions be submitted an Congress in order to determine which of them require European sanction.

St. Petersburgh, March 15th.—Reouf Pacha and General Ignatieff arrived here to-day.

THERE WERE some typographical errors in Babu Kanye Lal Dey Rai Bahadur's statement of Indian Dietary, which we published last week, and which we are requested to correct as follows: Oatmeal, flesh-formers, 10 instead of 70. watery and fatty matter 18 instead of 11; Vetch heat-giver, 56 instead of 66; Ghowlee, heat-giver 59 instead of 69.

IT IS RUMOURED that the Raja of Bijni has been offered a Civil Service appointment

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE has the following:

The telegram from Madras shows that the example of the British Indian Association at Calcutta has been speedily followed. We are inclined to think that the business of petitioning Parliament by influential meetings in India will ultimately prove a practical difficulty in the administration of this country, which will not conduce to the ease and comfort of the Government.

Popular agitation is an influence more easily set in motion than laid aside at will.

Yes, petitioning is becoming a great nuisance. Pass a bill and stop it!

BABU NILCOMAL DEY, dating his letter from on board the Steamer "Lahore," the 12th instant, informs us that a Native Assistant Surgeon, a passenger on the Steamer was accused of being drunk and disorderly, and the Captain invited the Assistant Commissioner of Dhubri to come to the steamer and try the man. This the Assistant Commissioner did, and our correspondent says that he then and there convicted the Assistant Surgeon of "criminal breach of trust in respect of certain liquor supposed to have been left in his charge by his employer," and sentenced him to one month's rigorous imprisonment. We cannot form any opinion on this case without seeing the proceedings, which we hope our correspondent will forward to us.

THERE WAS a very pleasant Evening Party at the Emerald Bower of Dr. Shoutrindra Mohun Tagore on last Friday. It was held in the dancing hall of the garden, which is decorated and furnished with great taste and skill. The collection of pictures was superb. The party, which was composed chiefly of European ladies and gentlemen, was entertained with specimens of different kinds of Hindu Music. The boat-scene, which was accompanied with Sari song, was very entertaining. The party was a great success, barring the weather which kept away some of the invited.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Indian Charivari* to hand. "Our Little Arthur," General Hardinge, is the subject of the Album Portrait. The number is good.

A CORRESPONDENT brings to our notice a case of daring burglary in the mansion of the Raja of Burwariabad. The Raj Kumar was sleeping with his wife in his apartment, when a thief stole into his room, and removed jewels worth about Rs. 2,000 The house is protected by a numerous body of guards, and the wonder is how the devil he got there! Suspicion naturally falls upon some of the servants.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a reply from Mr. George Watt to our last article on his Botany We are sorry that it came to hand too late for insertion in this issue.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals. 1. Report on the Charitable Dispensaries under the Govt. of Bengal for 1876. 2. The Native Chiefs and their States in 1877 (Bombay *Times of India* Press.) 3. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra's Remarks on the early life of Asoka (reprinted from the proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, for January, 1878.) 4. Adisura and Bollala Sena—an historical disquisition on the Ambostha Kings of Bengal, by Parvati Sarkar Roy Chawdhuri. 5. A Score of facts touching Health and Tobacco, by C. H. A. Dall, M.A. 6. Programme of the Musical Performances at the Emerald Bower, on the 15th March, 1878. 7. The Saddarshana-Chintanika or studies in Indian Philosophy, vol, II., No. 1. 8. Bornu Siksha in Hindi and Bengali, by Bhoothnath Mookerjee. 9. Bharut Sramajibi or the Indian Workman. vol. IV., No. 70. 10. Report of the Association for the Removal of Protection from Indian Manufactures. By J. C. Hobbs.

THERE WERE 345 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending the 9 h March, of which 43 were from small-pox, 106 from fever, 45 from cholera, 37 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 22 from tetanus and the rest from other causes, six persons died from old age and seven children were still-born.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on *Thursday* the 21*st Inst.*, next at 7 P. M.

Subject: The properties of Gases.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—*Annas* 8 for a single Lecture: Or Rs. 3 in advance for 12 consecutive Lectures.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
Honorary Secretary

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1878.

THE LIBERTY OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

THE Empire is the nation. The empire exists for the benefit of the nation. Whatever contributes to the safety and stability of the empire contributes to the happiness and advancement of the nation. Even the worst enemies of England cannot deny that whatever the origin of her supremacy in the East, and whatever the influences under which the wave of English ascendancy has swept over this country, her mission has been to secure peace and prosperity to the teeming millions of this vast continent, to instil into them the principles of the progressive civilization of the West, and to qualify them for the exercise and enjoyment of the higher duties and rights of man. The best proof of the manner in which England has fulfilled her solemn trust and noble mission is afforded in the contrast which one may run and read in the condition of the people under British rule and the administration of the Native Princes. Indeed, not a little of the improvement now observable in the native states is due to the salutary influence of the superior system of British administration in such close proximity. It is, therefore, not simply gratitude for benefits already received, but their best interests, which prompt the people to wish well of and pray for the continuance of this beneficent Government. The pulse of national life, which is now making a healthy vibration through the length and breadth of the land, is sure to come to a dead pause, if the power, which has quickened this pulse, be withdrawn. Hence it is we say that the best interests of the nation are bound up with the stability of the British Empire in the East.

The blessings of British rule are patent to all. Where there was anarchy and confusion there is now order and law; where there was constant fighting and bloodshed there is now peace and tranquility; where there was insecurity and uncertainty, there is now security and regularity; where there was caprice and corruption in the administration of justice, there is now settled law and purity. Not the least valuable of the manifold benefits, which British rule has conferred upon this country, is the freedom of speech and writing. This is a freedom, which was not known to the people of India in times past. Under Mahomedan rule, the subject, though he had the right to petition, did not enjoy the inestimable privilege of criticising the measures of the Government, or the acts and proceedings of its individual officers. Even now the subjects of the Native Princes have not this privilege. It is a glorious privilege, peculiar to British rule. It is not possessed to the fullest extent by some of the foremost nations in the civilized world. It was gained in England not without a hard struggle. It has grown with the growth of English power and civilization. Even in India Englishmen domiciled in it did not obtain it without a long and severe contest. But it has come to the children of India, without effort, without struggle, as a part of the rich heritage, which has followed their allegiance to the British Crown. After enjoying this boon for about forty-three years a portion of the people of this country are deprived of it. Could a greater misfortune befall the country than this? A law was passed at one sitting on Thursday last by His Excellency the Viceroy in Council for the restriction of the Vernacular Press. A similar law had been passed in 1857, embracing the whole press of India, but then the British Power in the East was trembling in the balance Are the times again out of joint and so much so as to impose upon the Government the imperative necessity of checking the liberty of speech and writing? But how can that be the case when the law just passed is so limited in its scope? The liberty of the English Press is untouched, and when we say the English Press, we do not mean the press conducted by Englishmen only. The English Press which is left unfettered, is the press which adopts the English language as the vehicle of its thoughts, opinions, and comments. The distinction thus drawn shews that the Government does not desire to repress all public criticism, to stifle the public voice altogether. And when it is remembered that the Government is now presided over by a statesman, who is himself a votary of literature, and an advocate of free speech and writing, and that he takes the responsibility of the measure, the reader may rest assured that His Excellency would not have moved in the matter, without good and valid reasons. It cannot be denied that the fate, which has overtaken the Vernacular Press, is greatly due to the follies and indiscretions of many of its unworthy members. These had sufficient warning, which they heeded not. They went on in their devil-me-care spirit, regardless of consequences. They forgot that the Press was a double-edged knife, that if it was not plied with care, skill, and moderation, it might cut the hand, which used it. They did not recollect that however severely they might criticize the measures of Government, they would risk their own existence as members of society, if by their writings they endangered the existence of the Government, which protected them and gave them the freedom they enjoyed.

So far we believe there can be no reasonable difference of opinion. But the question is whether the safety of the empire requires the form of law, which has been just passed. Are the worst vernacular papers more violent than the rabid Irish papers, and have these been suppressed? Are the Indians more exciteable than the Irish, and yet are the Irish interfered with? Dr. Keneally's *Englishman*, Reynolds' *Miscellanay*, *Vanity Fair* and the *World* contain worse things, which are read by more exciteable populations, but the English Government does not think it necessary to put them down. The vast majority of the readers of those journals, particularly of the last two, mentally and morally are not far above the limited populations which the vernacular papers of India address. On the other hand the Government of India cannot deny that the vernacular papers, which have provoked this extreme measure, have no appreciable influence in the country. For the most part they have hardly any circulation worth the name, and are edited by men with no weight in society. In the North Western Provinces and the Punjab, these papers, which it would seem, have been the most outrageous, and which have led apparently to the present action of Government, have mostly a very limited circulation, in some cases scarcely thirty or fifty copies, and their names even, as Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore justly observed in Council, are scarcely known to the educated natives or better classes of the native community. It is said that these papers, though not widely circulated, are read with avidity in market places and like circles, and thus the poison they contain spreads. With all deference we submit that even then the circulation is very limited, and that if mischief is likely to arise from such limited circulation, may not mischief equally arise from seditious talk, though the talkers like the writers, as is really the case, are infected only with a

spirit of "braggadocio," which a powerful Government like ours may well afford to laugh down. The Sepoy Mutiny was not produced by the Vernacular papers. Indeed, considering the position of these men the measure adopted by Government reminds one of the oriental proverb—moving the cannon to crush the mosquitoe. Of course the Government is the best judge how far it is necessary for the safety of the empire to move the cannon to crush the mosquitoe. We are, however, convinced that the British Government has a strength in its beneficence, in its general justice, and in its high character, upon which the mosquitoe bites of the vernacular papers can make no impression whatever. On the contrary the motives of the present action of Government may be misunderstood, and may be attributed to its waning confidence in its own strength. But when so many wise heads have unanimously agreed to the measure, we must bow to their judgment and wisdom. Nevertheless it may be open to question whether the measure adopted should not have taken a different form. The legislature has relegated the whole power to the Executive Government. It may be taken for granted that in such a momentous matter as this, which affects the liberty of a portion of the Press, however insignificant, the Executive Government will not set the machinery in motion without good and just reasons; but at the same time it cannot be denied that when an important constitutional right is at stake, the ideas which English Government, institutions and examples have taught them, instinctively lead the thoughtful to believe that the intervention of a judicial tribunal would give the people greater satisfaction and confidence. His Excellency the Viceroy said: "It is not in the spirit of resentment for injuries that we propose to legislate. It is in the firm conviction that the maintenance of our Raj is for the good of the people, that we seek to save the people from the ruin in which they would involve themselves by seditious agitations against it. We have no desire to resort to fine or imprisonment; but what we do desire, and what we regard as the plain duty of the Government, is to prevent the open preaching of sedition and rebellion amongst the most ignorant, excitable, and fanatical portions of the subjects." We fully appreciate the spirit in which His Excellency spoke. It is certainly desirable to prevent the preaching of sedition, but for our part we humbly think that prevention is not always the best cure. There are cases in which punishment may prove better prevention than so-called prevention. Much better that there should be a safety-valve for the noxious gases than that the machine should suffer from pent-up gases, which may break out any moment without the knowledge of the engine-man. His Excellency the Viceroy said: "Had the law been certain, and the temper of the jury such as would have rendered a conviction sure, still I should not have considered a prosecution desirable. What I desire is to *prevent*, not to *punish*, seditious appeals. A successful prosecution, even should it, in some cases, have a deterrent effect, would still invest the prosecuted journal with a mischievous notoriety, and an artificial importance, calculated to give to its seditious teaching the very publicity which, in the interests of good government, we should desire to prevent. Every such victory would be a virtual defeat." The reply would be that if the law be uncertain, why not make it certain; that if the temper of the jury cannot be trusted, why not even dispense with the jury? The safety of the empire justifies any extreme step, but whatever is done, let the end of justice be always kept in view. The Executive Government, however careful and honest, is apt to be carried away, we do not say consciously or wilfully, by passion or temper, and as the courts represent the majesty of law as much as the executive authority, and as their duty is as much as that of the Executive Government to maintain the supremacy of law and authority, it could not fairly be averred that in their hands the interests of the empire would not be safe. On the other hand as a judicial trial would secure all the formalities of justice, even the most violent man cannot rightly complain, if after a fair judicial trial he is condemned, that justice has not been done to him. To say that such a trial would make the sufferer a martyr would be, we submit respectfully, to say that punishment according to the forms of law has no terrors, that patriarchal discretion is better than constituted law. We admit that the Government is the best judge of the necessity of the law, but the community we submit have a right to ask that whatever the law it should be administered by the constituted tribunals of the country. Why should the Government distrust the very courts, which it has appointed to deal out justice between man and man? Even if the Government wanted only the European agency in the disposal of these cases, that would have been preferable to the administration of the law through the Executive Government. The union of the functions of the prosecutor and judge in the same person is contrary to equity, to the recognized principles of civilized jurisprudence.

One word about the manner in which the Bill was passed. Not a word—not a whisper had been heard about it—a line was inserted in the morning papers that a Bill for the regulation of the vernacular press would be introduced into the Council on Thursday forenoon, and in the afternoon we heard that the Bill had become law! The standing orders were suspended, and all the members lauded the action of the Government, and what was more noteworthy most of them spoke, and as might be expected all in one strain. This extraordinary procedure had at first we must confess a stupefying effect upon us. We could hardly conceive the reason of this unseemly haste. Was the empire in a state of siege? Were the blood-hounds of war running rampant over the country? Did rebellion raise its gory head in any part of the peninsula? What was it that made the Government so nervous and induced it to pass such an important bill in such hot haste? We repeat we could not even guess the reason till we read Sir Alexander Arbuthnot's speech, which explained that the usual procedure in passing the bill might have provoked angry discussion among the vernacular papers, and thus produced the very evils, which it was sought to repress. For our part we humbly confess this is hardly a convincing reason. It is not at all consistent with the noble declaration of the Viceroy made on a previous occasion that His Government wanted the broad day-light, and not the twi-light, of public opinion, on all that it did. It is true that such a procedure was not without precedent. The Press Act of 1857 for instance had been passed under a suspension of the standing orders. But could there be any comparison between 1857 and 1878? In 1857 the empire was passing through the storm of a formidable military revolt; in 1878 the empire is peace. True, the political horizon of Europe is overcast with cloud, but India is safe. It might be argued that the Government was not prepared to modify the form of the Bill, and that any discussion of it by the public would therefore have been without any practical result. Granted, but the observance of the usual formalities would not have hampered the Government in any way. On the contrary the opportunity, which would have been afforded to the public to say their say, would have satisfied them that the Government was willing to hear them. Perhaps the real reason for this haste was that the Simla exodus was at hand, and as the non-official members would be absent at Simla, a measure of such vital importance ought to have been passed in their presence, that was to say in Calcutta. But as the non-official members had given their adhesion to the Bill, it would not have mattered much if it had been introduced in Calcutta and passed at Simla. Upon the whole we are convinced, and we say this with all humility, that the Government was ill-advised in pushing the Bill through with such unseemly haste. It is of course useless now to discuss its merits or the mode of its enactment. We, however, do hope that now that the bill has become law it will be worked with consideration and moderation. The Government has the giant's strength, but we should be much mistaken if it should use it as a giant.

THE POSITION OF THE OPIUM REVENUE.

IT appears from official reports from China that the position of our opium revenue is becoming precarious. The consul at Canton writes: "I have it on good authority that the preparation of native opium has greatly improved of late, both in flavour and consistency, and it is said that the production has doubled in the last ten years" For instance, on Chinese authority, the present outturn is from 25,000 to 32,000 piculs (133⅓ lbs. per picul) per annum, against from 15,000 to 18,000 piculs in 1865, 1864, and 1866. The native opium used in Canton is the produce of the Sze-ch'uan, Kweicho, and Yunnan Provinces, and in small quantities from those of Shen-si and Honan; but of the eighteen provinces of the empire, eight may be said to grow it in larger or smaller quantities. Of the opium shops in Canton 80 per cent. deal in it, the remaining 20. confining their trade to the foreign product only Native opium is, of course, taxed *in transitu* to Canton from the place of production. It is difficult to say what the various barrier and octroi duties amount to, but on an average every picul sold in the city has paid about 40 taels in duties and imposts, the selling price being about 480 dollars per picul. It is used by the poorer classes being cheaper than the foreign drug, and when a taste for it is acquired it is often preferred. Indian opium is often mixed with the latter to improve its strength and give it a flavour.

Whatever psalm-singing people may say about the morality of the opium traffic there is no prospect of its being successfully suppressed. Even if the Government of India were to withdraw from the trade, they cannot change the habit of the Chinese nation. As the British consul at Canton writes, the "Chinese Government does not see its way to the total suppression of its use, as urged by a section of the British public, for the simple reason that it has not the power, and probably considers that, by doing so if it had, it would lead to a renewal of the organized smuggling bands and boats which bade defiance to the Provincial Government, and created a very dangerous class. Every one who knows Canton previous to signing of the Treaty of Tientsin can recall the constant fights on the river between boats—manned with from 80 to 100 men, and pulling as many oars, armed and ready to engage whoever interfered with them—and the Chinese Imperial cruisers. Scarcely a day passed without loss of life, and the penalty for smugglers of opium, when caught, the execution ground was in constant requisition. Such was the state of affairs in regard to opium when the Treaty of Tientsin legalized the import, and the smuggler's occupation being gone, he and his boats disappeared, and if morality is alleged to have been shocked by the act, humanity has been spared by it the scenes of bloodshed which prevailed, and society the existence of a desperate and vicious class." It is therefore useless to discuss the question of giving up the opium traffic by our Government. But as we have shewn above there is danger to our revenue from indigenous competition. The consular report from Hankow states:

> The importation of Indian opium continues to fall off, and was less in 1876 than during any year since 1864. This is certainly not due to any diminution in the number of smokers, but to the increase in the production of native opium, which is said to be improving in quality. Hence we find a startling increase in the quantity exported to Shanghae. In 1871 duty was paid on 10 piculs; in 1875 on 893; and in 1,876 on 1,69 6. There is little doubt that the actual amount which finds its way to Shanghæ from Hankow is already larger than the amount of Indian opium received here through that port. In the Shanghæ Customs' Report for 1874 (that for 1875 is not yet published) it is estimated that the annual consumption there of native opium, nearly all of which is brought down the Yangtze, is from 2,500 to 3,000 piculs. It is, I believe chiefly used by the Chinese at that port for mixing with the foreign article; but its cheapness, and the milder character of its narcotic effects, recommend it in its pure form to the natives in the producing districts, and may soon bring it into favour with the smokers in more distant localities. Meantime the production is likely to increase under the fostering care of the Chinese authorities. It is true that the growth of the popy is nominally prohibited, but the chief, if not the only, result of this prohibition is a slight addition to the cost of the opium, caused by the necessity of paying fees to the officials or their subordinates. Perhaps, too, something may be allowed for the narrowing of the field of poppy cultivation, owing to the occasional interference of a conscientious mandarin. On the other hand, the likin, or inland revenue tax, is much less than on Indian opium, and the duty which the customs levy on the export of native opium is 15 taels per picul, or just half the import duty on the foreign articles Under these circumstances, even if the conditions remain as at present, it needs not the gift of prophecy to foretell the result, in the immediate future, of the competition between the native and foreign drug. It is not, however, likely that the existing prohibition, though only nominal in many districts, will long continue. A short time ago a writer,

stated to be an official, in a native newspaper expressed himself strongly in favour of permission being given to grow the poppy in the south-eastern provinces, where being a winter crop, it would not, he thinks, interfere with rice, the food of the people, which is grown during the summer. In the north-west where we know the poppy is and will continue to be, grown, the case is, he thinks, different, as the cultivation might interfere with that of the wheat and other grain upon which the people there depend for their subsistence. He adds that, in consequence of tea and silk being now grown in foreign countries, the export of these staples from China may be expected to fall off, and the balance of trade will be against his country. She ought, therefore, to encourage the growth of native opium, to prevent the otherwise inevitable drain of silver. Though the writer's arguments are feeble, the document, which is well written, is perhaps worth notice, as a slight indication of the commencement of a change in the prevailing views of the literary class. In fact, such a proposal as the withdrawal of the prohibition of poppy cultivation would, if supported by a statesman of rank, be soon carried into effect, and would be much less astonishing to the present generation than the legalization of the foreign opium trade would have seemed a quarter of a century ago.

The Nurchang Report has the following:

There can be no doubt, I think, that the production of native opium is increasing in the province, and that at no distant day it will form a staple of considerable importance. In most parts of the province of Feng-tzen, in many parts of the province of Hi-rin, and in a daily increasing area in Eastern Mongolia, about the Fa-hu-men and Huan-cheng-tzu, the farmer is beginning to regard opium as the first and most important thing in the year's crop. This is not surprising, for the poppy crop is a paying one, and it leaves the ground in time for a crop of cabbage or other suitable growth. The preference given to the native drug by the Chinese is only partly due to the fact that it is cheaper than the Indian by some 30 per cent. There can be no doubt that the residue, after smoking the native drug, is much more available for passing again through the pipe than is the residue of the foreign drug. It is said, indeed, that good native drug can be passed four or five times through the pipe. Against this must be set the fact that the foreign drug is more satisfying than the native. A pipe of native at 6 A. M. will require a second at 10 A. M. whereas the craving would not return after foreign sooner than noon.

It will be thus seen that a formidable indegenous competition is growing up in China, which may well fill our Government with anxiety. The question is how to protect the Indian opium revenue. It appears that Malwa opium has got a better footing in China than Bengal opium. The following statement shews the proportion of the importation of Bengal and Malwa opium into the treaty ports of China:

YEAR.	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Sorts.	Total.
1864 ...	29,998	16,412	6,063	510	5,2083
1865 ...	27,488	17,823	9,601	1,221	56,133
1866 ...	35,343	19,041	9,172	883	64,439
1867 ...	34,006	14,809	11,488	645	60.948
1868 ...	31 234	12,315	9,179	1,187	53.915
1869 ...	29.456	13,687	8,683	1,715	53,541
1870 ...	34,331	14,424	8,742	1,538	59,035
1871 ...	36,396	15,285	8 066	1,344	61,646
1872 ..	38,248	15,506	6,864	1,028	61,091
1873 ...	41,234	14.957	9,342	717	66,250
1874 ...	41.867	17,055	7,746	800	67,468
1875 ..	40.693	16,475	7,965	1,328	66,461
1876 ..	42,708	15,689	8,359	1,286	68.042

Now, let us see what does the Government gain from the two sorts of Indian opium. The following statement shews the cost of manufacture of the Bengal opium, and the nett revenue to Government and the rate of the Malwa duty:

SEPTEMBER TO AUGUST—	Cost per chest. £	Net Revenue per chest. £	Duty on Malwa Opium. £
1848-49	29	71	40
1849-50	29	64	40
1850-51	28	83	40
1851-52	28	69	40
1852-53	28	48	40
1853-54	27	46	40
1854-55	27	61	40
1855-56	25	83	40
1856-57	27	117	40
1857-58	27	136	40
1858-59	28	147	40
1859-60	29	155	40 / 50
1860-61	32	112	50 / 60
1861-62	39	97	60 / 70
1862-63	39	61	70 / 60
1863-64	39	56	60
1864-65	39	72	60
1865-66	36	116	60
1866-67	34	101	60
1867 68	34	96	60
1868-69	35	78	60
18 9-70	35	92	60
1870-71	35	98½	60
1871-72	39	87½	60
1872-73	39½	82½	60
1873-74	40½	77	60
1874-75	..	...	60
1875 76	...	...	...

A chest of Malwa opium contains about 17 per cent. more pure opium than a Patna chest and 23 per cent more than a Benares chest. The duty at the present Malwa rate (Rs. 600 chest) upon a Patna chest would be only Rs. 500 and on a Benares chest only Rs. 466. It will htus be seen that the excise system followed in Bombay is much less productive than the monopoly in Bengal. There is a loss of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 upon every chest of Malwa opium. On the other hand the profits per chest of Malwa opium to the merchant are far greater. The following statement shews the comparative profits of the two sorts of opium:

YEAR.	Prices in Calcutta Patna, Benares Average. Rs.	Rs.	Bombay Malwa. Average.		Price at Honkong and Shanghai in rupees. Patna.	Benares.	Malwa
1863...	1402	1335	1574	H	1462	1422	1596
				S	1545	....	1603
1864...	1033	967	1416	H	1130	1099	1504
				S	1192	.....	1582
1865..	975	93)	1426	H	1078	1027	157
				S	1110		1652
1866 ..	1369	1287	1673	H	1382	1348	176
				S	1405	.....	1861
1867...	1326	1263	1598	H	1379	1343	1609
				S	1404	.....	1666
1868...	1394	1370	1472	H	1445	1425	1409
				S	1435	.....	1545
1869...	1289	1234	1438	H	1338	1301	1478
				S	1381	1356	1537
1870 ..	1134	1075	1438	H	1216	1157	1459
				S	1233	12 8	1506
1871..	1331	1300	1338	H	1379	1354	1445
				S	1406	1372	1479
1872...	1432	1389	1430	H	1485	1443	1375
				S	1463	1417	1386
1873..	1305	1266	1336	H	1369	1298	1359
				S	1350	1284	1398
1874...	1249	1212	1308	H	1299	1258	1320
				S	1306	1277	1377
1875...	1269	1212	1268	H	1320	1269	1272
				S	1322	1284	1322
1876...	1309	1241	1285	H	1347	1280	1294
				S	1347	1280	1339
1877...	1298	1229 new	1349	H	1305	1305	1382
		old	1154	S	1367	1311	1446

Taking the cost of manufacture of Malwa opium at Rs. 5 a seer, which is paid in Bengal, the profit left to the merchant dealing in the Malwa drug per chest ranges from 25 to 30 per cent. The merchant who deals in the Bengal drug labors under a great disadvantage. He must submit to an upset price fixed by Government, which again is varied from year to year. Then there is the competition with the dealer in Malwa, who can lower the price at pleasure, for the latter can always command the market, the total charge to him on account of duty and cost of manufacture being much less. In the next place the cost of transport from Bombay is less than from Calcutta. On the other hand the loss to Government under the excise system is serious. The growing competition is sure to compel the Government of India to lower the price of the Bengal opium, and there will be loss of revenue. There is only one remedy left—the enhancement of the Malwa duty so as to equalize it with the selling price in Calcutta after deduction of cost of manufacture. But this would be practically so difficult that in our humble opinion it would be benefical to Government and fair to all parties if the excise system in Bombay were replaced by the monopoly system of Bengal. This would be the safest way of protecting the opium revenue. The Government would then have the whole market under its thumb as it were, and would be able to regulate the price according to the temper of the time. Monopoly is certainly objectionable on economic grounds, but as it is a necessity in the case of opium, we do not see why the Government should stop half way, why it should adopt monopoly in Bengal and not in Bombay. Surely what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. The gloomy future of the opium revenue deserves the serious attention of Government.

THE LOKENATHPORE CASE.

AS WE intimated last week the Government has published Mr. Skrine's report on the Lokenathpore case. The publication of the report will remove the mystery, which the unfortunate persistence of Mr. Stevens to withhold it had thrown around it. It would now seem that Mr. Stevens' reason for keeping back the report, as stated by some of our contemporaries, was that it contained certain passages reflecting upon Mr. Glascott, which the Government has omitted. If that was his sole reason for his persistent refusal to produce the report, surely he could have stated it before the Court, instead of challenging the Court for its authority to demand its production. His obstinate refusal tended to magnify the mystery and to put the public on the wrong scent. The Government has acted wisely by at once taking the public into confidence. We have not had time to go through the mass of papers, which the Government has kindly placed at our disposal, but with the hurried perusal which we have been able to give to the papers we will lay before the reader some of the prominent facts recorded by Mr. Skrine. To begin, we do not clearly understand why Mr. Skrine has been at so much pains to point out that his relations with Mr. Glascott have not been "cordial." He writes, "my personal relations with Mr. Glascott have not of late been so cordial as I could have wished, and this is due to the fact that in March last I brought so much pressure to bear as to compel him to remove the then naib of the concern, Kalikoomer Sannyal, against whose numberless acts of oppression the ryots rose in rebellion and refused to pay rent or to sow indigo, Kalikoomer Sannyal was Mr. Glascott's *factotum*, and his successor, the present naib, has not served long enough in the concern to gain his master's confidence. Denonath Chuckerbutty is the reigning favourite, but Mr. Glascott has not forgiven my action in the matter." Now, where was the necessity for this plea *ad misericordium* at the outset? The relations between Mr. Skrine and Mr. Glascott might not have been cordial, but the "my dearing" letters from the latter to the former shew that there were very familiar, aye, familiar to a degree, which we wish for the sake of both had not been exhibited in connection with a matter pending judicial investigation, particularly as Mr. Skrine according to his own shewing had suspicious at the begining against Mr. Glascott and his men. But let that pass. Mr. Skrine says that he had at first accepted the murder theory as correct. How the dead body was discovered is thus stated by Mr. Skrine:

The evidence on this point is tolerably clear and coherent, and its general veracity is not disputed (Appendix BI). About 6-30 A.M. on the 10th June Sadhu Shaik, the Nijabad Sirdar of Lokenathpore factory, went to Boonapara, north of the residence, to collect the Boona ploughmen, and was followed by Prannath Chowdhry, the dewan, and Umachurn Roy, an amin, of the factory. Some passers by called Sadhu's attention to the fact that a saddle and some white clothes were lying under a large jack tree north east of the Boonapara (*vide* plan annexed). He informed the dewan and amin, and the three proceeded together to the spot indicated.

All the objects discovered were wet through. Prannath Chowdhry sent information of these facts to the factory naib through Umachura Roy, and ordered Sadhu to inform the village chowkeedar; none of these witnesses had at that time any suspicion of foul play, and looked upon the saddle and clothes as unclaimed property.

Sadhu Sirdar met Falai Ghose, the village chowkeedar, tending his cattle near the Boonapara, and accompanied him to the tree. By this time Prannath Chowdhry had proceeded on his ordinary work, and Umachurn Roy had gone to the factory. Sadhu appears to have examined the clothes, searched the pockets of the piran, exhibited and replaced a four-anna piece, a two anna piece, and a pie which he found therein, and to have then twisted the clothes together, placed them under the saddle, and gone about his usual vocations. Sadhu denies having moved the clothes, and the chowkeedar Falai as strenuously asserts that he did; one of the two must have done so, and on the whole I am inclined to think that the Chowkeedar Falai is speaking the truth.

In the meantime Mokim Chowkeedar of Joirampore had conveyed the news of the discovery of the saddle and clothes to Ramchurn Biswas, the brother of Ramgoti Biswas, at Srikole. Ramchurn remarked that Ramgoti had *gone* (not "been taken") to the factory the previous afternoon and had not returned, and sent his nephew Aghore Chundra Biswas to Lokenathpore to gather information as to his whereabouts. Aghore Chundra Biswas met the constable Nepal *en route* near Chandpore factory, and at once identified the horse, saddle, bridle, whip, and string as the property of the deceased. The corpse was discovered in this state:

"The corpse was then nearly fresh, though the existense of a slight smell betrayed the fact that decomposition had already set in. It was in the attitude of a man standing, with the head thrown back, the hands parallel with the sides, and the palms open and turned outwards. The limbs were not rigid. The throat and face from the breastbone upwards were abnormally

swollen, and the head-constable declares that he noticed slight bruises on the right eye-brow and the left side of the chin. Aghore Chundra Biswas, however, states that he only noticed one slight abrasion above the eye-brow, and Rajoni Chatterjee denies that marks of any kind existed. The corpse had a "gamcha" and a white chudder underneath it, twisted round its middle and the corner of the chudder was hanging down in front as if partially opened. A string with the deceased's key attached was tied round the waist under the clothes, and on the feet were shoes of an English pattern which were removed without difficulty."

The *post mortem* examination took place in the presence of Babu Johorry Lall Bose (the inspector of police who had arrived from Kooshtea by the night mail train), the Court Sub-Inspector, and about seven or eight of the ordinary Police, including Aghore Biswas, Troylukho Biswas, and other relatives of the deceased. At its conclusion the native doctor publicly expressed his opinion that the deceased had been murdered by strangulation. He then (7-30 A. M.) came to a Mr. Skrine house and informed him of the result of his examination. In reply to Mr. Skrine's question, he stated that the death could only have been the result of strangulation because—

(1) there was no water in the lungs or stomach as is (he said) always the case when death has resulted from drowning;

(2) the tongue protruded, another sure sign of strangulation;

(3) the throat was much swollen and conjected, which would indicate that considerable pressure had been exercised on each side of the gullet.

(4) of the exudation of blood from the mouth and nostrils, which would not occur in a case of simple drowning.

Mr. Skrine remarks: "An opinion so positively expressed and grounded on what would appear to any non-professional man such trustworthy data, had naturally great weight with me, and I accepted the murder theory as the correct one. I further considered the fact that the corpse when discovered had shoes on its feet as a strong indication that it had been subjected to foul play; for (I argued) any native of this country about to commit suicide by drowning would instinctively remove his shoes before entering water." We have neither space nor time to follow Mr. Skrine in his subsequent enquiry. We observe that the Inspector of Police, Babu Johorry Lall Bose, (who had been employed under the orders of the District Superintendent of Police in verifying the statement of Troylukho Biswas) and the other officers now reported to Mr. Skrine as follows:

(1) that in spite of certain suspicious points there was *prima facie* and overwhelming weight of testimony in favour of Troylukho's story;

(2) that the only evidence against that theory was afforded by the statement of Joynarain Chowdhry, three ryots of Dihi Kishtopore (Khetter Mundul, Furmun Mundul, Hakim Mundul), all of whom were more or less under Mr. Glascott's influence, of Juggeshur Chuckerbutty, which *prima facie* tells quite as much against the factory as in its favour, and of Boykunta Nath Chatterjee, an enemy indeed of Mr. Glascott, but a witness whose statement is of little importance;

(3) that Mr. Glascott and his servants were interfering with the conduct of the enquiry, that the latter were engaged in manufacturing exculpatory evidence, and that the police were followed about by numerous spies who reported every movement to their master;

(4) that outside the factory itself no further evidence was procurable.

Accepting the murder theory Mr. Skrine writes:

I therefore rode to Lokenathpore on the morning of the 14th June, surrounded the factory with police and village watchmen, and with one exception (that of the naib Chundra Sikur Gangooly, whose age and infirmities rendered such a step in his case unadvisable) I arrested all the employes whom Troylukho Biswas had alleged to have been present when Ramgoti Biswas entered the factory precincts on the 9th. I also took Mr. Glascott's parole, to the effect that he would not leave his house or compound without my permission. The amlah thus arrested were the following:—(1) Deno nath Chuckerbutty (mal mohurir) (2) Gopal Chunder Sen (mohurir), (3) Bisto Chunder Chatterjee (sudder mohurir), (4) Kally Coomar Mookerjee (Store-Mohurir) (5) Umbica Churn Chatterjee (Mohurir) (6) Troylukho Nath Banerjee (writer), (7) Dokul Singh (jemadar of the factory), (8) Mohibut Singh, (9) Janoki Singh, (10) Dewki Singh, (11) Shib Charan Singh, (12) Shabba Panday (burkundazes) (13) Sadhu Ghose (general servant in the amlah quarters). On the following day, 15th, I arrested (14) Moulvi Shah, the Superintendent of the dak service, (15) Ram Churn Boona, factory chowkeedar, and (16) Rojoni Kant Chatterjee, a young man belonging to the same village as the deceased, occupying the position of cook and hanger on in the house of the factory naib. The total number thus arrested was 16.

It would appear that of the persons arrested Rojonikant Chatterjea, stated after much hesitation that just before sunset he saw the deceased taken by Deno Nath Chuckerbutty, Gopal Sen, and Mohabut Singh to Mr. Glascott; that about 8 P. M. in the same evening he heard cries from the factory residence; that reaching the platform east of the house he heard the deceased calling for mercy from the interior, and sounds of blows and strangulation; that Mohabut Singh, who was on guard outside then drove him away, and that the following morning he heard Shadhoo Ghose tell the naib that Mr. Glascott had murdered the deceased by beating and throttling him with his own hands, and that he (Shadhoo Ghose) Dokal Singh jemadar, Ramchurn Singh, and another burkundaz, had thrown the corpse into the "Doa." But subsequently he denied this statement. Mr. Skrine says:

"I told him that if his statement of the morning was really true, he was bound to re-affirm it; but that if it was false, he should beware of bringing ruin, and perhaps death, on an innocent man by persisting in the falsehood. The young man at once threw himself at my feet and acknowledged that his previous statement was an entire fabrication,—the result of threats held out by the police that I would beat him if he did not accuse Mr. Glascott. He then, with many tears, stated that the deceased never came to the factory at all on the 9th, and that nothing unusual occurred there during the afternoon and evening of that day. He denied having been prompted; but as his brother was allowed free access to him on the night of the 15th and morning of the 16th, I have not the remotest doubt that his first statement was inspired by the former."

We wish Mr. Skrine had given the exact words of his lecture to Rojonikant, which seemed to have such tremendous moral effect upon him. Mr. Skrine then went on in his enquiry. "The *coup de main*," says he, "having failed to secure its immediate object, it became necessary to open regular parallels." And he at last came to the conclusion that the murder theory had no reliable basis. He then unfolds the suicide theory, which we will notice hearafter.

Mr. Stevens, it would seem, had at first also accepted the murder theory. In a memo to the Presidency Commissioner he writes:

The case appears to be certainly one of murder and the question appears to be whether the crime was committed within the factory and by some of the factory people, or outside the factory. In the latter case it seems plain that the horse and the clothes were placed where they were in order to bring suspicion on the factory. The money and ornaments are gone.

It seems improbable (if the story of Troilukho is true) that the man was murdered in order to carry out any purposes of the factory itself. The concern had more to lose than to gain by his death; and again, had there been any attempt to extort money by torture, marks would have been visible.

So far as I can yet see, the circumstances seem to point to the murder having been committed by some one or more persons for the sake of the valuables which the deceased is said to have had about him. It is, however, dangerous to form theories, and I lay no tress on this view. Mr. Skrine has offered a reward of Rs. 200, and also a free pardon to accomplices. I trust that you will approve this step.

The Bengal Government, we observe has committed itself to no theory whatever. In a letter to the Inspector General of Police, dated the 9th August, Mr. Macaulay, Officiating Junior Secretary, writes:

In reply I am to say that there is clearly no reliable evidence that would warrant a charge of murder against any one, and that the death of Ramgoti remains shrouded in mystery. It may be that he committed suicide; but there is no evidence that satisfactorily shows that he did so, while the motives for suicide which have been suggested seem insufficient. Mr. Eden can only hope that the police will continue to make inquiries in the hope of obtaining some clue to the cause and mode of the man's death.

In the meantime the two men Troylokh Biswas and Ramgoti Kahar were prosecuted for giving false information to a public officer. It does not appear from the papers before us as to who gave the order for the prosecution of these men, though when the prosecution was brought to the notice of Government it directed the District Superintendent of Police to report the result.

We have not space for more in this issue, but we cannot conclude without noticing the strange argument advanced by Mr. Stevens that the enquiry held by Mr. Skrine was not judicial, and that therefore he was not bound to produce the report called for by Mr. Lawford, the Sessions Judge. This point has been ably enunciated by Mr. Lawford in his letter of reference to the High Court, which we hear will sit to-morrow to hear the argument, Mr. Justice Jackson presiding. We will not anticipate the judgment of the High Court, and it would be impertinent in us to say that as the question raised comes before Mr. Justice Jackson for decision, his clear intellect and judicial acumen will give a solution, which, whatever it might be, is sure to commend itself to the public mind. We hope we will be pardoned if we point out that if the enquiry held by Mr. Skrine was not judicial, then there was a grave derilection of duty somewhere, for the law as we understand it makes a broad distinction between "investigation" and "enquiry;" that an "enquiry" should be judicial; that Mr. Skrine practically followed the directions of the law when he took the depositions of witnesses, forwarded them as "evidence," and upon such "evidence" made arrests, and subsequently upon further "evidence" discharged the prisoners, acts done in the exercise of judicial authority, and that if these acts had been done by him in his executive capacity then he had no jurisdiction under the law, and all his proceedings were null and void. If Mr. Skrine or Mr. Stevens now calls these proceedings other than judicial, surely their *ipsi dixit* cannot alter the character of the enquiry. Mr. Justice Jackson's decision will however clear up the point, and we anxiously await it.

MR. DACOSTA ON THE PREVENTION OF FAMINE IN INDIA.

THAT quiet but indefatigable Indian Reformer, Mr. John Dacosta, has published another pamphlet regarding India. The subject of the present publication is the prevention of Famine in India. Mr. Dacosta exposes the fallacies regarding Irrigation as a prevention of Famine. He says, "the contention at present, therefore, is, that our irrigation works, although they create a burden on the finances of the State, are necessary as a protection against famine; and, in support of this proposition, it is asserted that the Genges Canal has given the adjoining districts, that is, the Doab, an absolute immunity from famine; that the canals in Orissa have afforded an insurance against a similar calamity in that province, and that the Government works in the Madras Presidency have been in the highest degree beneficial in the same way. These facts Mr. Dacosta has refuted *seriatim*. He says:

"As regards the Ganges Canal, which was opened in 1855, it is only necessary to point to the famines which desolated the Doab in 1860-61, and 1869, to show that the canal has not afforded the immunity contended for; and the irrigation subsequently supplied from that canal, and the minor Government works in the North Western provinces, has undergone a serious diminution, as may be seen from the following figures:

	Area irrigated from the Govt. canals in the N. W. P.
In 1868-69	1,441,917 acres.
1869-70	1,089,673 ,,
1870-71	1,051,355 ,,
1871-72	852,489 ,,
1872-73 ... about	960,000 ,,
1873-74	1,049,312 ,,
1874-75 ... about	1,120,000 ,,
1875-76 ... about	1,180,000 ,,
1876-77	1,239,883 ,,

Thus the figure attained in 1868-69 has never since been reached, although new works have subsequently been opened, the results obtained from these having been limited to the trifling annual increase shown between the year 1871-72 and 1876-77."

The failure of the Orissa project is too notorious to require proof. As for the Madras works, with the exception of one or two canals on the lower tract, they too fail to supply water, when it is most needed. As the Secretary of State says in his despatch on the Famine Commission, the same causes, which produce drought and famine, render the canals ineffectual. Col. Chesney has lately contributed an article to the *Nineteenth Century* advocating irrigation as a preventive of Famine. Mr. Dacosta has ably answered this question. Thus he says:

"When Colonel Chesney, the writer of the article in the *Nineteenth Century*, from which the above passages have been quoted, was examined by the Indian Finance Commit-

tee in 1871, he stated in answer to Question 6999 that "the Ganges Canal was yielding 7½ per cent, upon the capital invested." The accounts which have since then been laid before Parliament, show that that statement was incorrect, that the enterprise never was financially profitable, and that a heavy loss, amounting to £ 1,490,705 on the 31st March 1876, has been the result of the scheme. If Colonel Chesney, who had charge of the accounts in the Public Works Department, was mistaken on an important point intimately connected with his own duties, surely, his opinion upon general results cannot be accepted blindly, especially when we find them authoritatively contradicted, and when enthusiasm seems to have carried him beyond the bounds of sober reality, as expressions like the following, which frequently occur in his article, would tend to show: "Here then . . . is offered an enormous and untouched field for the extension of irrigation where *success is absolutely certain* . . . and a reasonable return for outlay, may be *confidently reckoned upon.*"

Accepting Lord Salisbury's proposition that the true remedy against famines will be found in such measures as will enable the Indian peasant "to make money enough in years of plenty, to lay up against times of dearth," Mr. Dacosta urges that the springs of industry ought to be relieved by the permanent settlement of the land revenue. On this point he quotes distinguished authorities in support. In 1861, a commission was appointed to inquire into the causes of the famine which had then recently desolated the North-Western Provinces of India; and Colonel Baird Smith, in his exhaustive report on the evidence collected, and the conclusions to which it led, recommended the permanent settlement of the land-tax as the measure best calculated to mitigate the effects of drought and scarcity in future. Comparing the famine of 1860-61 with one of much greater severity which had occurred in 1837, he said:

"Foremost amongst the means whereby society in Northern India has been so strengthened as thus to resist, with less suffering, far heavier pressure from drought and famine in 1860 than in 1837, I place the creation, as it may almost literally be called, of a vast mass of readily convertible and easily transferable agricultural property. I have before described the condition of agricultural property antecedent to these settlements, and it will probably be admitted, without serious qualification, that a state of things more likely to weaken the society living under it could scarcely be conceived To great and unequal pressure of public burdens . . . . . and arbitrary interferences, have succeeded assessments rarely heavy, titles recorded and easily understood, long leases, and the enjoyments of all the profits during the currency of such leases. The natural results of such a change in so vital a part of the social economy have grown more and more apparent. Land has obtained an increasing marketable value. Its value as a security has, doubtless, been largely made use of in mitigating the pressure of famine Such, then, having been the general results of the protracted fixity of the public demand, the security of titles, the general moderation of assessments, the recognition and general record of rights . . . the inference seems irresistible that, to intensify and perpetuate these results, we must proceed still further in the same healthy and fruitful direction. The good which has been done by partial action on sound principles is both a justification and an encouragement to further advances; and, entertaining the most earnest conviction that State interests and popular interests will be alike strengthened in an increasing ratio by the step, the first, and as I believe, most important measure I have respectfully to submit for consideration, is the expediency of fixing for ever the public demand on the land, and thus converting the existing settlement into a settlement for perpetuity."

Lord Canning, in a Resolution published in 1861, on "*the sale of waste lands in perpetuity, discharged from all prospective demands on account of land revenue, and the permission to redeem the existing land revenue by the immediate payment of one sum equal in value to the revenue redeemed,*" said: "His Excellency in Council sees no reason to doubt that, so far as either measure might take effect, it would be in every way beneficial. As to waste lands, there could be no question . . . . H. E. in Council has still less doubts as to the beneficial results of permitting a redemption of the land revenue. He believes that increased security of fixed property and comparative freedom from the interference of fiscal officers of the Government, will tend to create a class which, although composed of various races and creeds, will be peculiarly bound to the British rule; while, under proper, regulations, the measure will conduce materially to the improvement of the general revenue of the Empire." Sir William Muir summed up, in the following terms, the benefits to be derived from a Permanent Settlement of the land-tax:

1. Saving of the expenditure now incurred by the necessity of periodical assessments;
2. Deliverance of the people from the vexations prevalent at every settlement;
3. Freedom from the tendency to depreciation of property towards the close of each temporary settlement;
4. Prosperity arising from increased incentive to improvement and expenditure of capital;
5. Greatly increased value of landed property by content and satisfaction among the people;

Mr. Money, a member of the Board of Revenue, N. W. Provinces, thus recorded his opinion: "The policy of removing the bar to improvement which is now presented by the uncertainty of the Government demand, is obvious, and the arguments which have been adduced in favour of a Permanent Settlement appear to me unanswerable." Sir George Edmonstone, Lieutenant Governor of the N. W. Provinces, said:

"I do not in the least doubt that permanency in the settlement of land revenue will be productive of all the advantages which Colonel Baird Smith and Mr. Muir, in greater detail, have depicted. Judging by the effect of settlements for long periods, it may safely be anticipated that the limitation of the Government demand in perpetuity will, in much larger degree, lead to the investment of capital in the land. The wealth of the agricultural classes will be increased; the prosperity of the country and the strength of the community will be augmented; land will command a much higher price. The prospective loss which the Government will incur by relinquishing its share of profits arising from extended cultivation and improved productiveness, will be partly, if not wholly, compensated by the indirect return which would be derived from the increased wealth and prosperity of the country at large."

We have not space for more extracts. We hope this subject will be included in the programme of enquiry by the new Famine Commission. This is by far the most important point, and it ought to be carefully sifted. Unfortunately there is a powerful party against the extension of the Permanent Settlement, and unless Parliamentary pressure be employed, we fear there is no chance of its being carried out.

MANCHESTER'S DOG-IN-THE-MANGER SPIRIT.

MANCHESTER cannot conceal its selfish heart. It cannot evidently bear the sight of India making her own clothing. As it sees that in the present state of the finances of India it has no hope of the immediate reduction or repeal of the cotton duties, it has given a vent to its dog-in-the manger spirit, by asking the Secretary of State for India to impose an excise duty on Indian Cotton fabrics. It got a rebuff from Mr. John Bright, the apostle of free trade, but it is too selfish to heed it. Mr. Bright's letter is so out-spoken and important that we cannot resist the temptation of reproducing it. We give it below:

London, February 7, 1878.

My dear Armitage,—I am surprised at the line taken by some of our friends of the Chamber of Commerce in the matter of Indian import duties. It seems dictated by passion and disappointment rather than by reason and a sound judgment. India has an interest in the question as well as England. If the people of India could speak and act as we can in England they would oppose to the last degree of resistance any attempt to impose an excise duty of five per cent, or of any amount, on the produce of their factories. If they were in theory free-traders, and wished to be so in practice, they would oppose any such tax, and in my opinion most rightly. they would say, as we ought to say, an excise duty on the produce of the mills is odious on every ground and cannot be permitted. They would look for the power to remove the import duties, to greater economy in the public expenditure, or the regular, growth of the public revenue, or the imposition of some new tax which might raise the needful £800,000 a-year. The grievance complained of in the Chamber can only be remedied in one of these three ways for I feel very confident the House of Commons will never compel the Indian Government to adopt the odious and intolerable proposition which seems strangely to have found favour with some of the members of your Chamber. I see in the same discussion in the Chamber objection is made to anything being done there which may be termed political. What is more political than a question of revenue and taxation? This dread of all serious question is the cause of the feebleness and general uselessness of Chambers of Commerce. I suppose the excise proposition is merely a weapon to use against the Government, and to compel it to act against the import duties. It must fail, for it is impossible to defend it. It would be much more wise to put pressure on the Indian Government to lessen its expenses, to reduce its English and native forces by the amount required, which surely may be safely done if our Indian Government is so intelligent and so just as it constantly declares itself to be. I write this rather hastily after reading the report of the proceedings of the Chamber. I am not a member of the Chamber, but I shall be very sorry to see it take a course which must lessen its character for wisdom, and therefore lessen its influence. If you think any one will care about my opinion you need not conceal it. I am sorry to be compelled to differ from any of our friends on this question. Believe me always sincerely yours—JOHN BRIGHT.

Notwithstanding Mr. Bright's protest a deputation waited on the Under-Secretary of State for India praying for the imposition of an excise duty on the Indian cotton goods. The spokesman of the deputation thus put forward his case: "Since 1876 the number of spindles in India had doubled, and the Bombay spinners had made a good position of rivalry with us in China and Japan, where we had formerly exclusive possession of the markets. That being so, it was only the extreme necessity of the case that induced the manufacturers of Lancashire to ask for the imposition of an Excise duty. Yes, Manchester's profits have been interrupted by India, and therefore stop India's mills by imposing an excise duty." This pseudo-advocate of free trade went on to say: "A great many objections had been raised to the imposition of an Excise duty. One of these objections was based on the idea that such a duty was not in harmony with the principles of free trade, but there was an important duty on silver manufactures which was countervailed by a stamp duty, as well as an import duty on spirits, which was countervailed by an Excise duty, and if that practice was contrary to the principles of free trade then he presumed we were not really free traders in this country. (Hear, hear.) There was another objection raised which probably might have some weight with Lord Salisbury and that was that it would be impossible to reach with an excise duty the hand manufactures of India. Now he did not propose anything of the kind, but even if the objection had any practical importance it would be no more unjust, he maintained, that the mill industry of India should be placed at a disadvantage with its hand manufactures than that the mill industry of England should be placed at a disadvantage with both the mill and the hand industry of that country. (Hear, hear.) The *Bombay Gazette,* he might add, had written a very powerful article in favour of the view which he advocated, and Sir G. Campbell had declared in a speech to his constituents that in his opinion an excise duty was the only way out of the difficulty. It might, however, be said that the manufacturers of Lancashire were coming before the Government with an unnecessary complaint, when it was borne in mind that the exports to India had increased of late; but it so happened that our trade to all parts of the world had been for some time past in most unsatisfactory state. But there were very few markets which took goods of the same staple character as India, and when there was a large accumulation of those goods in stocks, it became necessary to force them forward at any price."

So it comes to this that because Manchester cannot sell her goods she must put a drag upon India. Could any thing be more grossly selfish than this? Lord George Hamilton replied that the "India had had greater financial difficulties to deal with than any previous Government had had to encounter and that there was therefore no prospect of the immediate repeal of the cotton duties." His Lordship continued:

The statement of Lord Salisbury was that he would take every step in his power to reduce the import duties, but he did not undertake to impose any additional taxation for the purpose. The Government were able to concur in the object which the manufacturers of Lancashire had submitted to their consideration, and they were able to concur, looking at the matter entirely from an Indian point of view. It was because they believed that it would be for the benefit of India that those duties should be done away with that they had pronounced themselves to be in favour of their reduction. Hitherto the Government had been in the position of being able to agree with the advocates of abolition in the application to India of sound economic principles and a sound fiscal system. But the proposal which was now made was somewhat different, although Mr. Jackson seemed to think it was quite in harmony with the principles of free trade. That might be so or not, but a very distinguished free-trader has expressed a contrary opinion very confidently in strong language, if strong language were to be taken as a proof of confidence. Be that, however, as it might, the object of the Government throughout had been to reduce the price of what was practically a necessity of life in India, and it was quite clear that to impose an excise duty on the mills of Bombay would not in any way accomplish that object. There was, in his opinion, then only one justification for such a proposal as that of Mr. Jackson, and that was that we should look on those import duties as part of the permanent income of the Indian Government. If the proposal were adopted, the immediate result would be that the total revenue from a duty upon goods in India would be increased; and the more they increased that duty the greater would be the difficulty to reduce it or to abolish it. So far from achieving the object which they had primarily in view—the abolition of these cotton duties—he thought the imposition of the Excise duty would have the reverse effect. Then there was great practical difficulties, because it would be impossible to impose this

duty on hand-looms and as the steam mills would have to say it they would be going contrary to the principles of free trade. He did not take such a gloomy view of the prospects of trade as had been held out and he quoted the figures for eight months for last year showing the reverse of that view."

So Manchester has been frustrated. We were not a little surprised to see that after such a strong protest from Mr. Bright Manchester had the temerity to urge the question. Surely Manchester ought to have remembered that India is not meant for her cotton lords. The first duty of Her Majesty's Government is the welfare of the millions entrusted to their care, and whatever will not conduce to their interests, can not have their sympathy and support. Manchester was too short-sighted in urging this question, at a time when the people of India are being saddled with new taxes, though it is admitted that they find it hard to make the two ends meet. There could not have been a greater scandal than the imposition of the excise duty for the sake of Manchester, and no minister, however amenable to its influence we feel convinced, would brave such a scandal.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HAVE to remind our readers that the ceremony of unveiling the Canning Statue by His Excellency the Viceroy takes place this afternoon at 5-30 P. M.

THERE will be no Budget meeting of the Legislative Council this year. We are informed that all necessary legislation in connexion with the Financial Statement having already been effected, it will be published in the form of a Resolution of Government with papers appended, giving the usual details. It is believed that it will be published in course of this day.

THE LAST convocation of the Calcutta University was a tame affair. The arrangements were certainly good and orderly, but the audience was not large, the conferral of the degrees as usual tedious, and the address of the Vice-Chancellor by no means enthusiastic. But if the address was not enthusiastic it was practical. Mr. Justice Markby said at the outset that educational speeches were bores, and so he would try to be as little a bore as possible, and he was quite successful in his attempt. He began by saying that the results of the last University Examinations were disappointing; he then paid graceful tributes to the memories of Dr. Duff and Maharaja Romanath Tagore; he next dwelt on the requirements of University education; he admitted, what we had been long urging in these columns, that it was not enough to multiply the subjects of examinations, that there ought to be a corresponding teaching power; he advocated the extension of science education, and hoped that the teaching power would be strengthened by Dr. Mahendralal Sircar's Science Association. Mr. Markby concluded by urging the necessity of founding Law Lectureships in connection with the Calcutta University.

WE GIVE in another column an account of the Lieutenant Governor's visit to Cuttack. His Honor's visit to Chittagong excited much enthusiasm among the people. They lined in large crowds on the banks of rivers as the Lieutenant Governor's party steamed up to give welcome to His Honor! Chittagong has had a succession of disasters, which have greatly stricken her down. The ravages committed by the late storm-wave are still to be seen. The value of land we hear has fallen, the best proof of the impoverishment of the people. In consideration of their depressed condition the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to suspend the Road and Public Works Cesses for one year. His Honor made an enquiry into the Noabad settlement, against which so many complaints have been made. We are glad to learn that His Honor has recognized the right of transfer in the holders of Noabad lands.

THE ARMS BILL was passed into law on Thursday last. Sir Edward Bayley said his last word in support of the Bill. He remarked:

One representation which they had from the British Indian Association went so far as to say that no facts or arguments had been adduced to establish the necessity for such legislation, and he really did not know what evidence would be satisfactory to every one. As far as Sir Edward Bayley could make out, the only statements which were made to contravene the evidence he then adduced, were first, that the importation of arms and the value of arms had been diminishing within the last five or six years, instead of increasing, and in the second place, a very large number of people had been destroyed by wild beasts. Now, he did not in the least propose to controvert any one of those statements, but he took pains to show when he introduced the bill, that he was perfectly aware of the fact that a diminution had arisen in the actual import of arms, and he mentioned the reason for it, that was to say, that the Government of India and the Local Governments had put into force certain powers which they possessed under the Customs Act of absolutely prohibiting the import of arms of a certain description. That was a very useful power and one which they proposed to retain. It would supplement very effectively the provisions of the present Bill.

So Sir Edward practically admitted the facts advanced by the British Indian Association and necessarily the force of their objections. He argued that "the importation of arms, if they were not aided by legislative enactment, would be very largely extended." But where was the proof for this assertion? On the contrary the trade returns shewed a steady falling-off. Then Sir Edward lays great stress upon the opinion of the local officers. Of course that opinion was entitled to much weight, but the Government was bound to look to the popular side of the question. It would seem that Sir William Robinson was opposed to the Bill. Sir Edward Bayley said, "Sir William Robinson in Madras had, no doubt, taken the exact line which the British Indian Association had taken." We wish Sir William Robinson's opinion had been published.

WE HAVE received a beautifully bound volume entitled "the Native Chiefs and their States." It contains much interesting information. If any one wishes to know the number of the native princes, the extent of their territories, the population thereof, their revenues, the conditions of their treaty engagements with the British Government, and other important facts relating to them, he will find it in this book. As a book of reference this publication is exceedingly valuable.

BABU JOGESHCHUNDER BANERJEA has set a good example to our educated countrymen. He is an inhabitant of Krishnaghur with moderate means, and in order to honor the memory of his parents he has founded two silver medals, in the local College, one to be awarded annually to the most successful student from the Nuddea district at the University Entrance Examination, and the other to the most successful candidate at the First Arts, who will consent to prosecute his studies at the Krishnaghur College for two years. The Director of Public Instruction has acknowledged with thanks the liberality of Babu Jogeshchunder Banerjea.

MR. O'DONNEL, the virtual leader of the Irish Party, we are glad to observe is taking a prominent part in Indian matters. He lately moved a resolution condemning the appointment of Mr. Macpherson to be the Deputy Secretary to the Legislative Department of the Government of India. The circumstances connected with this appointment are so well known to the readers of this journal, that we will not repeat them. The Resolution was in these words: "That the appointment of Mr. Macpherson constitutes an improper evasion of the law, is unjust to the regular civil service of India, and is calculated to bring the Indian Administration into public discredit." Lord George Hamilton found himself in an awkward position, but explained the matter in his best manner. He said:

"The offices in question, which were originally known as those of clerk and Deputy clerk to the Legislative Council of the Governor-General of India, required a certain technical knowledge in the persons who held them. It was most important that the acts of the Indian Government should be draughted clearly and intelligibly, because otherwise much difficulty and mischief might ensue, and therefore these appointments had always been held by legal gentlemen, and were outside the scope of the Act. An endeavour was made to obtain a gentleman from England to fill the office, but no one possessing the requisite qualifications for the office would consent to go to India at the salary offered. The Indian Government were consequently compelled to fall back upon their own resources. There were at the time in the Legislative Department a Mr. Fitzpatrick, a barrister, and a Mr. Jardine, who was also a barrister; but neither of them possessed the requisite technical knowledge. Mr. Macpherson was accordingly nominated to the office by Mr. Stokes, a member of the Legislative Council in whose hands the matter had been placed. Mr. Macpherson was doubtless very young, being only 24 years of age and had been only 19 months in India; but, on the other hand, he had shown great aptitude for the work, and had had a special training as an equity draughtsman and conveyancer. Lord Lytton and the Council, however, thought that Mr. Macpherson was too young to be placed at the head of a great department, and accordingly Mr Fitzpatrick was appointed Secretary to the Legislative Council, and Mr. Macpherson was appointed his deputy. So far from his appointment having been solicited by his friends and relations, the first intimation they had of it was the notice of it which appeared in the *Gazette*, and they were somewhat disappointed that he should have assigned his prospects at the Bar for the sake of accepting it. The salary offered to Mr. Macpherson was somewhat larger than that which had been given before, but the increase had not received the approval of the India Office and the salary would therefore remain the same as it had hitherto been. During the short time Mr. Macpherson occupied his post he had shown great aptitude for the work and would in time become a very valuable public servant. (Hear.)"

If "a Mr. Fitzpatrick" and "a Mr. Jardine" were not competent for the post, Mr. Macpherson, "who would in time become a valuable public servant" was discovered to be at once competent for the post. But it was an ugly business, and as there was no escape from it, it was dropped. But the moral effect of the discussion we hope will be enduring.

LAST THURSDAY'S ENGLISHMAN contains an interesting letter about the drainage of Ballygunge. "Ballygunge," says the writer, "is already the bugbear of doctors, and its reputation for feverishness is unenviable." The writer quotes the following opinion of Dr. Moore on the cause of malaria. The learned doctor says: "The idea that malaria is due altogether to decaying vegetables is a mistake. It is due to the drying of earth, either temporarily or permanently saturated with water. Thus those places temporarily so saturated may become healthy at some periods of the year, while other localities having substratum of permanently moist subsoil, or impervious rock, are always drying, and are therefore always more or less unhealthy." Exactly so; this sub-soil humidity is the cause of malaria, and the malarious fever which is devastating the fairest villages of Bengal. But the writer misapplies the remarks of Dr. Moore. He says: "Ballygunge would be immensely improved if it were levelled, if ninety per cent. of the existing tanks and puddles were filled up, and if the natives were compelled to keep the land in the immediate vicinity of their huts and villages free from jungle." We say, no; what is necessary is the removal of obstructions to drainage. The slope of Ballygunge like that of Calcutta is towards the east; the drainage of this town and its neighbouring villages Gurcha Gram, Oloobaria &c., was until lately effected by two drains running north and south lying on either side of the old Ballygunge Road. These drains again communicated by means of suitable culverts with another big drain, which crossing the M tla Railway line by a culvert constructed specially for the purpose, carried the drainage of the above places to its outfall the Tiljulla Salteghat. Now this latter drain not having been periodically cleaned out, had gradually silted up and its mouth and Tiljulla Salteghat completely choked up. So the drainage of the above-named places cannot find its way into its natural outfall, and as an inevitable consequence fever of the malarious type, which in this country endemically rages every year after the close of the rains, that is when the earth begins to dry up after saturation with water, has broken out in the places in question with unusual severity ever since the last two or three years. We learn that the silt which had accumulated in the drain in question has begun to be removed since a month or two, and considerable progress has already been made in the work. We have little doubt but that the places will be restored to their former healthy condition, when the work of clearance is completed, the drainage of the localities will then find an easy exit into the *hana*, a large reservoir of water about half a mile from the Tiljulla Saltighat. The dry surface of a tank we admit does to a certain extent contribute to the evolvement of the malarious poison from its humid subsoil, and the locality in close proximity to it may be affected thereby—but neither that nor the other causes, such

as jungle and a large number of shallow tanks to which the writer under notice attributes the generation of the malarious fever which is raging in Ballygunge, would account for the same. The cantonment tank is being re-excavated this year but the fever has been raging in Ballygunge since the last two or three years, nor are the shallow tanks and the jungle new to the locality. Besides the fever has been raging with unusual severity, not only in Ballygunge but also in the other villages in its neighbourhood, though far away from the cantonment tank. If the evolvement of the malarious poison from the humid subsoil of Ballygunge itself, consequent upon the obstruction offered to its drainage, has contributed to the outbreak of the fever there and in such of the neighbouring villages as have the drainage channel in common with Ballygunge as pointed out above, the Municipal Commissioners deserve great praise in having hit the cause rightly and in doing precisely that which when thoroughly finished will restore the places to their former condition of health. Need we say that this is another illustration of the soundness of Raja Degumber Mitter's theory regarding the causation of the Bengal Epidemic fever of the malarious type.

THE FOLLOWING is an abstract of the new Act for the better control of Publications in the Oriental Languages:

The word "newspaper" means any periodical work containing public news or comments on a public news printed wholly or partially, in any oriental language and the words "printer" and "printed" apply to printing, lithography, engraving and photography.

Any Magistrate of a district or Commissioner of Police in a Presidency Town, within the local limits of whose jurisdiction any newspaper described above is printed or published may with the sanction of the local Government, call upon the printer and publisher of such newspaper to enter a joint bond and several bond or when the printer and publisher is the same person to enter into a bond binding themselves or himself in such sum as the local Government thinks fit, not to print or publish in such newspaper any words signs or visible representations likely to excite disaffection to the Government, or any antipathy between any person of different races, castes, religions or sects, or use or attempt to use such newspaper for the propose of putting any person in fear or causing annoyance to him and thereby inducing him to deliver to any person any property or valuable security or anything signed and sealed or to give any gratification to any person, or for the purpose of holding out any threat of injury to a public servant or to any person in whom the printer or publisher believes that public servant to be interested, and thereby inducing that public servant to do any act or to forbear to do any act, connected with the exercise of his public functions.

After the execution of the bond above described the Magistrate or Commissioner of Police may further require the obligor or obligors of the same to deposit the amount of the bond in money or equivalent Government securities, and the same shall remain in deposit until 15 days after the depositor or depositors has or have made and subscribed a declaration under Act XXV of 1867, Section 8. Fifteen days after the subscription of the declaration above referred to the deposit will be refunded on application to the Magistrate or Commissioner. If the publisher and printer referred to give an undertaking in writing to the Magistrate or Commissioner of Police to the effect that no words, signs, or visible representations shall, during the year next following the date of such undertaking, be printed or published in such newspaper which have not been previously submitted to such officer as the local Government may appoint in this behalf, or which on being so submitted have been objected to by such officer, he will be exempted from executing a bond or making a deposit as mentioned before. When any newspaper contains any objectionable words or signs of the nature referred to the Government may cause a notice in the form given in the schedule to be published in the local *Gazette*, and a true copy of such notice shall be fixed in some conspicuous part of the premises of the newspaper described in the declaration made in respect of the newspaper, and the copy so fixed shall be deemed to be due service on the printer and publisher. If after the publication of such notice and the service thereof the newspaper continues the offence prohibited as above all printing presses, implements or tools and everything pertaining to the press, all copies of such newspaper and any money or securities deposited shall be liable to be forfeited to the Crown, provided the publisher of any newspaper may on the publication of such notice and before anything has become liable to forfeiture under the section in respect of such newspaper, delivered to the Magistrate or Commissioner of Police an undertaking in writing of the description already specified and if such undertaking be accepted by the Magistrate or Commissioner nothing shall become liable to forfeiture between the date of the undertaking and the end of the period for which it is given. Whenever the local Government finds that any money or security and any implements of printing, utensils, plant or materials used or employed in or for the purpose of printing or publishing any newspaper are liable to be forfeited, such Government may, by a notification in the official *Gazette* declare such money or security and printing implements and tools to be forfeited, and may by warrant issued under its authority under the hand of any Magistrate, empower any person to seize and take away such implements tools, &c., and copies of such newspaper and to enter upon any promises here such newspaper is printed or published or where the implements and tools are to be found where copies of such papers are sold and distributed.

The same provisions apply to books, pamphlets, placards, hand-sheets or other documents printed wholly or partially in any oriental language in British India containing words, signs, or visible representations of objectionable nature.

The local Government may, upon good cause shown, cancel any forfeiture relating to books and pamphlets, &c.

Newspapers printed elsewhere than in British India containing objectionable words, signs or visible representations shall be liable to be forfeited to the Crown, and the local Government may declare all copies of such newspapers liable to forfeiture wherever found and may by warrant issued under the hand of any Magistrate empower any person to seize and remove such newspaper wherever it is sold distributed or kept and search for copies of such newspaper. Every warrant issued under these provisions shall be executed in the manner provided for the execution of search warrants under the law relating to Criminal Procedure Any person feeling aggrieved by the issue of any notification or by any declaration made or anything done in the execution of a warrant, may, within three months from the date of the notification or declaration or the doing of the thing complained of appeal to the Governor-General in Council and the order of the Governor-General in Council upon such appeal shall be final and conclusive.

The Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, exclude any newspapers printed at any place beyond the limits of British India, or any books, pamphlets partly or wholly in any oriental language printed at any such place, and the contravention of this direction shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine, or with both, and the papers and books shall be forfeited to Government. The Magistrate or Commissioner of Police may issue warrants to search for and seize the newspaper and books forfeited. The Governor-General in Council may empower any officer of the Postal Department to search or cause search to be made in such papers and books and deliver them to the officer appointed to receive them in this behalf. Every notification and declaration of forfeiture shall be conclusive evidence that the forfeiture referred to has taken place and no proceeding under this law shall be called in question by any court of Civil or Criminal Jurisdiction; and no Civil or Criminal proceeding shall be instituted against any person for any thing done under this Act or in execution of any such warrant or for the recovery of any property seized under this Act. Any publisher and printer required to execute a bond or make a deposit shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine, or with both if they print or publish such newspaper without having complied with such requisition. The same punishment shall be imposed upon any publisher or printer who has given an undertaking and who within the period of such undertaking prints or publishes any newspaper containing objectionable words or signs which have not been submitted to the officer appointed, for the purpose or who has objected to them. Any portion of the Act may cease to have effect in any territory to which it has been extended on the publication of a notification by the Governor-General in Council in the *Gazette of India* and the Act may again be extended to the same territory by a like notification.

It will be seen that the Act will not apply to newspapers published wholly in English. But may we ask whether the insertion of advertisements or extracts in the vernacular will render them liable to the new law? This point should have been cleared up before the bill was passed into law. The Act has been extended to Bengal, Bombay, North Western Provinces, Oudh, and the Punjab. Madras, the Central Provinces and British Burma are exempted.

MOFFUSSIL.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AT CUTTACK.

EXPECTATION was rife among the people of Cuttack ever since the time when the wire flashed the good news of the advent of the Lieutenant Governor to the land of Jogannath. His Honor after inspecting the Port of Chandbali on the 27th and that of False Point on the 28th ultimo, arrived at Cuttack on the evening of the 1st current. The salute was fired at Jobra a little in anticipation, *i e*, immediately when the Steamer *Pioneer* was sighted afar on the blue waves of the Mahanadi, so that there was no booming of the *bombs* when His Honor touched the *terra firma*, but the air resounded with the huzzas of the crowds assembled. The Regiment (12th Madras Native Infantry) presented arms and the Band struck "God Save the Queen". The L.G. was then conducted from the ghat by the District officers and the officer commanding, to the platform where a deputation consisting of the Maharajas of Maurbhanj and Keonjhor, the Principal Zemindars of the district, some members of the Subordinate Executive Service, and Hadji Abdul Rahaman Musa representing the local mercantile interests, met him half way. The following address was then read by Babu Nandakisor Das Assistant to the Superintendent of the Tributary *mehals*:— * * *

To

THE HONORABLE ASHLEY EDEN C. S. I. C. I. E.
Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR,

We the undersigned Rajahs, Zemindars and other inhabitants and residents of Orissa beg to welcome your Honor most cordially to this Province.

To us this visit brings the greater joy as we recognise in your Honor, the first representative of Her Imperial Majesty, who has come amongst us since Her Majesty's assumption of the title of EMPRESS OF INDIA, an event which will be ever remembered by us and our fellow-subjects of India with feelings of undying gratitude, as evincing the solicitude of our Most Gracious Sovereign to bring home to us that the natives of this country are incorporated in one common Empire with Her Majesty's other subjects and enjoy with them the privileges of equal citizenship. Our loyalty was not evoked, for the first time, by the assumption of that Title, but we thenceforward can recognise that we are no longer subjects of an alien Throne.

Inasmuch as your Honor's impartiality throughout your official career has been universally admitted, your Honor's appointment to the Lieutenant Governorship of Bengal, occurring as it did almost simultaneously with that memorable event, was regarded by the inhabitants of all parts of the Presidency as the most auspicious inauguration of the Imperial rule and as the best and happiest means of carrying out that policy of perfect equality among the subjects of Her Imperial Majesty whatever their creed, color or country, which was set forth in the Royal Proclamation. Indeed we have always believed that if the interests of any particular class can be said to be uppermost in your Honor's consideration, they are those of the children of the soil.

Those among us who belong to the Cuttack district were particularly rejoiced to learn that one who had been their Magistrate years ago had risen to the position which give him the fullest power to promote their welfare.

We therefore again beg to welcome Your Honor most heartily and to express our extreme pleasure at Your Honor's visit, receiving it as we do, as a proof of your Honor's earnest desire to see for yourself how a people once under your charge are faring, and we trust that it will be equally gratifying to your Honor to revisit this Station which was the scene of your early labors.

With the sincerest hope and prayer that the Almighty Father may vouchsafe to the EMPRESS OF INDIA and to Your Honor—Her worthy representative—long life and prosperity

We beg to remain,
Your Honor's,
Most obedient and humble servants,

Cuttack, the March, 1878.

His Honor briefly replied admitting the claims of the children of the soil and his sincere pleasure in visiting once more the scene of his earlier labours in a flourishing condition; he then with his natural affability went on conversing with the Zemindars and Rajas who were introduced by the Commissioner. The Reception Platform though not so grand and gorgeous as the one which had been constructed on the occasion of the visit of Sir Richard Temple, was nevertheless a very picturesque and tasteful one, festoons of flowers an

evergreens with Chinese lanterns peering among them constituted the roofing, the whole Platform was carpetted down to the waters' edge. After the introduction was over, His Honor drove to the Magistrate's residence at Lalbag, a distance about 2 miles, the whole line was one blaze of light, the sides of the road were decorated with flags, festoons and flashing rows of light.

Early the next morning, His Honor was up with the lark and commenced inspecting the Public offices; the Treasury, the Records, the Road Cess and Registration Department &c. &c. were looked into; the morning's work was brought to a close after inspection of the Judge's office, the Jail, the Branch Charitable Dispensary and the Lunatic Asylum. In the afternoon the MissionSchools and Orphanages were visited. At 9 P. M. the Darbar was held at Manglabag-house. The assemblage did not consist as on such previous occasions of all the Rajas and Zemindars, yet the pink of the aristocracy was there, a side-room was graced by a bevy of the fair or fairy daughters of the west, and the officials both European and native mustered strong; a levee of the European gentlemen was held in another room, His Honor was then conducted to the Durbar Hall, which was beautifully illuminated and decorated, the walls were covered with charming floral devices and wreaths, the frontage overhung with flags of all nations, then there was the Star of India composed of bayonets and the ever-to-be revered motto "Heaven's Light our guide" painted in emblazoning colours above it, the whole hall was lighted by handsome chandeliers and wall-lights. The ceremony commenced by conferring *Khillats* and *Sanads* on the Maharajas of Mourbhonj and Keonjhor, the Raja of A'l, Raja Syamanand De of Balasore, and Rai Bahadur Baidya Nath Pundit and Nimai Charan Bose, the poor Raja of Sukiuda who was also selected for these honors was absent on account of serious illness. Be it remembered that the young gentlemen and the newly created Rai Bahadur Baidya-Nath Pundit are the fruits of the much calumniated Ward's Institution. After these ceremonies were over His Honor rose and addressed the assembly to the following effect:

1. That it is a matter of great satisfaction to him to revisit Orissa after an absense of 18 years and see the rapid strides it has taken in its material and intellectual progress, notwithstanding that few years ago the province was devastated by a most disastrous famine; that it is his conviction that a great portion of the people namely that which has a relation with land, is in a condition far better than people of the same class in other parts of India.

2. That for thousands and thousands of years Orissa was the scene of religious enthusiasm, hence although the means of communication with it were fraught with great inconvenience and danger, people from various parts of India knew it better and visited it more than any other District of Bengal, so that he does not consider it a matter of wonder when he sees the prosperity of the province increased so rapidly at a time when those means of communication were improved. That he has under his consideration a scheme for connecting Calcutta with Cuttuck and even Puri by means of a navigable Canal, if this project succeeds it will be the means of connecting with many divisions of Bengal, which are still shut out from the Ports of Orissa, he is confident that sanction to the scheme will be received in a very short time and he hopes that before he leaves India for good he will have the gratification of seeing people accomplishing their journey from Cuttuck to Calcutta in a couple of days. This Canal will ensure to this Province more material prosperity than has been hitherto achieved in other parts of India, and further this canal will be the means of bringing in pilgrims from one end of the country to the other, for by this improved means of journey the troubles and inconveniences of the present mode of travelling will be removed.

3. That 4 years ago when the late Lieutenant Governor Sir Richard Temple visited Orissa, the value of its exports happened to be 79 *lacs* of Rupees, but it has increased to one crore and 23 *lacs* during the last year, that much of this increase may be attributed to the extraordinary exportation of food-grains to Madras and Ceylon, yet this proves beyond a doubt that the trade of this Province has been now established on a firm basis. During the last year rice and paddy were exported to the enormous extent of 32 lacs of maunds from the Orissa Districts. So that it must be admitted that the cultivating classes have enriched themselves unprecedently and the people in general must have benefitted themselves greatly by this influx of wealth into the country. True it is that by this increase of price of food-grains, people of fixed incomes are sure to suffer, but with the increase of price of food, the price of labour increases in an equal ratio so that in a few years hence, whatever difficulties might have been experienced by this class of people at present, will be removed for ever. Indeed he has been already informed since his arrival here that the price of labour has been doubled within a very few years

4. That at one time the zemindars of Orissa had been exacting illegal cess in a fearful degree so that Government was on the point of taking some strongest measures for its suppression, he is glad therefore to see that their illegal exactions have been stopped, and this he believes to be the the result of the developement of trade and agriculture in the Province. He hopes further that the two classes zemindars and ryots will hence forwad enjoy the fruit of this developement according to their own fair proportions, let the zemindars receive their just dues without the least hankering after an illegal cess and the ryots pay these just dues without a clamour.

5. That he is very sorry to hear that scarcity prevails on the borders of the Chilka' lake, but Government and the public have come forward with timely aid, and it is in his contemplation to open some more relief works in the vicinity. The salt manufacturing class feel the greatest difficulty, but the obstacles which were in the Puri District compared with Ganjam have been since removed. By the opening of the proposed Canal this class of people will benefit themselves much more than the salt exporters of Europe.

6. That it is a matter of much gratulation that the people of Orissa are reckoned the most peaceful, inoffensive and loyal among all Her Imperial Majesty's Indian subjects. The Uryas, it is said, are not given to the commission of heinous crimes, particularly those affecting property. It is hoped, therefore, that they will ever continue to walk in this path of goodness.

That Orissa was ever backward in the progress of education, but matters have since changed for the better; a College has been established and the cause of high education is placed on a sound footing; there has been established also a Medical School, and it is expected that its effects will be greatly beneficial in the course of time. Primary education is in a flourishing condition in Balasore, and the *Khonds* have set a very good example by voluntarily paying a tax for education and roads.

That irrigation and navigation Canals have been completed in Orissa the charges for these Canals are hitherto borne by people of other parts of India, but it is now to be considered whether the people of this province, who are solely benefitting themselves by the excavation of these Canals will not bear the whole of the expenses of constructing and keeping them. That it is not His Honor's desire that any compulsory law should be passed for the collection of the canal dues, so long as a fair trial be not given to see how the present improved rules be accepted. It is hoped however that they will be taken in kindly, as during the last year they have taken lease of an area three times greater than what they had taken before.

The speech was concluded with encomiums passed on the Maharajah of Mourbhounj and Keoghor and some unnamed Zemindars for their praise-worthy conduct as landlord and their public spirit in the advancement of material and social progress, the minor Rajah of Dhenkanal was exhorted to walk into the footsteps of his late lamented and enlightened father, and thanks were tendered to the people for the cordial manner with which His Honor was received the previous evening.

On the 3rd, Sunday, the Lt.-Governor with staff attended morning service in the Station Church and then started on board the "Pioneer" for the celebrated hill retreat of Narage, whence he came back in the evening.

On the 4th, His Honor accompanied by the local authorities visited the Road Cess garden, the General Hospital (founded on the old Anna Cshatra Charity of the Marathas) and the police Reserve force at Chanliagong. From noon to 2 P. M. some of the Rajahs, Zemindars and other native gentlemen were presented, the Lt.-Governor chatted most freely with them on the material progress of the province, the advantages likely to arise to it by the opening of the proposed canal, education and other social improvement of the people, the high price of food grains owing to improvement, sale to foreign exporters &c., &c., &c. At 5 P.M. His Honor presided at the distribution of prizes to the boys of the Cuttuck Collegiate School; the Principal Mr. Agars briefly narrated the progress of the Institution from its inauguration as a village school to its gradual developement into the status of a second class College; the slow but sure appreciation of the benefits of English education by the people of the District, as 15 years hence the school was almost entirely attended by Bengali youths, but now-a-days the Urya element predominates, in conclusion he regretted the result of the late University examination, as none of the 5 candidates who went for the B. A. test had succeeded in passing. At the end of this speech, His Honor distributed the prize books to the meritorious students of the Collegiate school and then adressed the meeting at some length as to the necessity of further continuing the College. It is to be observed here that the creation of the College was sanctioned by the Supreme Government as an experimental measure for 3 years, guaranteeing an expenditure of Rs. 80,000 if an equal amount be raised by the inhabitants of the place. The money so required has been chiefly subscribed by some of the public spirited Zemindars of Bengal and the college opened in January 1876, so that only 9 months now remain of the guaranteed period of 3 years for the continuance of the Government grant, and now that the result of the last year's examination is anything but satisfactory, Mr. Eden with his usual frankness expressed his doubts as to the desirability of continuing the College any longer, but looking into the alacrity with which the people of the place (?) came forward with subscriptions, His Honor intimated that he will try to secure the sanction of the continuance of the College for a further period of 2 years, but this is purely on the understanding that the result of the next examinations be hopeful and satisfactory. His Honor also expressed a wish to strengthen the present staff of Professors, who were composed wholly of native graduates of the University. So far so good, as the apprehension among educated natives of the place was general that the college was doomed for its apparent inefficiency, considering the present state of the public exchequer In the evening the native reception committee gave an entertainment to His Honor at the Manglabag house, the whole of the European *elite* and a selected number of native gentlemen were invited. The Cuttack Amateur Theatre Company performed the Bengali Drama of Ramabhisheka, I need not comment here upon the excellence or otherwise of the play selected or its performance by the amateur or immature young men. Suffice it to say that the patience evinced by His Honor was greatly to be admired, for he was present up to the very last act when the scene dropped. Refreshments of the very best descriptions (considering the clime and time) were lavishly supplied to the assembled guests. The only blot was the dancing and singing of an ugly imp of a natch girl, whose very appearance scared away the missionary gentlemen from the hall. The Jubra workshop was inspected on Tuesday morning the 5th instant, during the course of the day, some more zemindars and native officials were presented. The evening was enlivened by supper and ball in the Manglabag-house, where the beauty and fashion of Cuttack assembled to do honor to His Honor.

Wednesday, the 6th.—The Lt.-Governor and party bade farewell to the Station at 7 A.M., taking leave of the European and native gentlemen at the Jubra Ghat, cordially shaking hands with them all.

Thus the ceremonies in connection with the gubernatorial visit to Cuttack were all a success, tho' everything could hardly be expected to chime on as a marriage-bell, for instance there was some *contretemps* about the arranging and numbering of seats in the Darbar-hall. The Commissioner it is hoped will do away with the antiquated form of numbering the chairs on such occasions next time, he perhaps does not know that this piece of absurd antiquity has been done away with in the Vice-regal Darbars, only separate blocks are reserved for each class of people.

Cuttack, 6th March, 1878. SUBJANTA.

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ERRATUM.

For Baboo Saroda Prosad Das, Mymensing Rs. 20 read Baboo Sarodapersad Chatterjea, Beerbhoom... 1 4 0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—*March*, 13, 1878.

GENERAL.—Mr. F. J. Marsden, Barrister-at-law, is appointed to be Chief Magistrate for the town of Calcutta and Judge of the Court for the trial of Pilots, *vice* Mr. C. Miller, resigned.

Mr. Ameer Ali, Barrister-at-law, is appointed to be a Presidency Magistrate for the town of Calcutta, *vice* Mr. F. J. Marsden.

Mr. Ameer Ali is also appointed to be Coroner of Calcutta.

Mr. F. J. Marsden, Barrister-at-law, Chief Magistrate fof the town of Calcutta and Judge of the Court for the trial or Pilots, is allowed leave for twenty months under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, from the 22nd instant, together with subsidiary leave for fourteen days under Section 10, Supplement F of the Code from the afternoon of the 8th idem.

Mr. J. G. Charles is re-appointed to act as Chief Magistrate for the town of Calcutta, and is also appointed to act as Judge of the Court for the trial of Pilots, during the absence on leave, of Mr. F. J. Marsden, or until further orders.

Mr. J. Anderson, on leave, is appointed to be a Deputy Commissioner of the Fourth Grade, with effect from the 1st January 1878, *vice* Mr. T. Smith.

Mr A. W. Bushe Power on leave, is promoted from the Fourth to the Third Grade of Depnty Commissioners, *vice* Mr. J. Ware Edgar, C.S.I.

Mr. G. J. B. T. Dalton, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Cooch Behar, is appointed to act in the Second Grade of Deputy Commissioners during the absence, on leave, of Major R. C. Money or until further orders.

Captain E. G. Lillingston, Superintendent of the Central Jail and of the European Penitentiary Hazareebagh, is appointed to be a Deputy Commissioner of the Fourth Grade, *vice* Mr. A. W Bushe Power, and to act as Deputy Commissioner of Julpigoree during the absence, on leave, of Major R. C. Money, or until further orders.

Captain Lillingston will act in the Third Grade of Deputy Commissioners until further orders, *vice* Mr. G. J. B. T. Dalton.

Mr. P. Nolan, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, is allowed leave for one day in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 21st December last.

The orders of the 19th ultimo, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 20th idem, transferring Mr. E. Stewart, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Sasseram division of the Shahabad district, to the Sudder Station of Gya, are cancelled.

Baboo Uma Kanto Dass, Officiating Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Chittagong, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. T. F. Bignold, Officiating District and Sessions Judge on leave, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Sankoora during the absence, on duty, of Mr. W. Cornell, or until further orders.

Mr. Bignold is also appointed to act as Additional District and Sessions Judge of Burdwan.

Mr. T. T. Allen, District and Sessions Judge, on leave, is appointed to be District and Sessions Judge of Rajshahye.

Moulvi Moniullah, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpore, is transferred to Bogra.

Moulvi Syed Obedoollah, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bogra is transferred to the Sudder Station of Rungpore.

Mr. C. A. Wilkins, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Shahabad is allowed furlough for ten months under Section 12 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 21st instant, together with subsidiary leave for fifteen days under Section 24 (a) of the Code.

Mr. E. McL. Smith, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, at present employed on settlement work, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for four months under Sections 3 and 15, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 13th November 1877.

Baboo Shama Churn Mitter, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, is allowed for leave

three months under the rules in Chapter VII of Civil the Leave Code

The orders of the 1st December last, granting Mr. H. G. Sharp, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Aurungabad division of the Gya district, three month's privilege leave, are cancelled at his own request.

The orders of the 16th January last, granting Baboo Shoshi Shikhur Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Furreedpore, two months' sick leave, are cancelled at this own request.

The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to grant to Mr. A. W. Rushe Power, six months' extension of furlough on Medical Certificate.

Mr. F. B. Taylor, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Nudden, is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. F. R. S. Collier, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in charge of the Kurigaon division of the Rungpore district, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code. with effect from such date as he may be relieved of his present duties.

Mr. T. M. Kirkwood, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is appointed to act temporarily as District and Sessions Judge of Bankoora.

Mr. W. M. Clay, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Backergunge, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the Second Grade of Magistrate and Collectors, *vice* Mr. E. J. Barton.

Mr. W. J. Money, C. S. I., District Judge of Mymensingh, who reported his return from furlough on the 24th November 1877, is allowed subsidiary leave with effect from that date to the 11th December following inclusive under Section 24 (b) of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Annoda Prosad Sen, Sub-Deputy Collector, Jhenida, in Jessore, is appointed to be Manager of the Noldanga Ward's Estate in that district, with effect from the date on which he assumed charge of his new office, *vice* Baboo Gopinath Chatterjee, deased.

Baboo Monmotho Coomar Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector Russirhaut, 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade, *vice* Baboo Annoda Prosad Sen.

Baboo Pran Kissen Dass, a First Grate Canoongoe, Presidency division, is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade in that division, *vice* Baboo Monmotho Coomar Bose.

The services of Baboo Kastooree Lall, Sub-Deputy, Collector, Hazareebagh, are placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of Patna for employment under the Durbhunga Raj.

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DEATH.—7th March 1878 Hallyshuhur Khasbatty—Rymonee Debee the beloved wife of Baboo Tarachurn Chatterjea, aged 50 years of Asthma.

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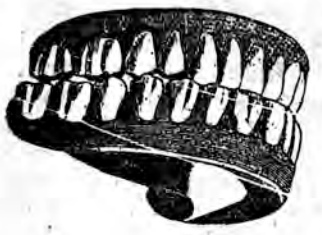

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Printed and published by WOOMESH CHUNDER NUNDI. *at the* HINDOO PATRIOT PRESS, No 108, BARANUSY GHOSE'S STREET, CALCUTTA.